

LEXINGTON KY: Todd House

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KENTUCKY (B) COUNTY - Todd

71 JUNE 1 1978

Kentucky

Counties & Towns

Lexington
Todd Home

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

*Leslie Weekly,
June 1st. 1911.*

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago, on Short Street, Lexington, Ky., there lived a girl of a peculiarly refined and winsome character. This girl—her name was Mary Todd—came of a highly respected family. Her ancestry can be traced to a long line of men distinguished in the early history of Pennsylvania and other States. Her grandfather, General Andrew Porter, was a close friend of George Washington. The Porters furnished Pennsylvania with one Governor and two filled Cabinet positions. Educated as she was in Dr. Ward's famous school, widely read in the classics, an observer of humanity, refined by association with cultured men and women of the time, she represented the highest type of American womanhood.

While she was being educated, a young man from the same State was coming to the notice of the public in Illinois. As he afterward said,

"There is no romance in my early life. The story can be condensed in one line, and that line you can find in Gray's 'Elegy': 'The short and simple annals of the poor.'"

Yet this young man—Abraham Lincoln—was the same one that is known as "Honest Abe," "The greatest of all commoners" and the "Great-heart of the White House." He was what Walter Malone describes:

A blend of sadness, smiles and tears;
A quaint knight errant of the pioneers;
A homely hero, born of star and sod;
A peasant prince; a masterpiece of God.

Mary Todd, when she was nineteen years old, visited her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards, at Springfield, Ill. There she met Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, who were both suitors for her hand. She accepted Mr. Lincoln. They were married in 1842, at Springfield, Ill. Their married life was said to have been ideal by those who knew them intimately. The culture that she possessed made her particularly fitted to assume the place which the position of her distinguished husband was to fill—chief executive of the nation. Every one knows the story, how Lincoln achieved the highest honor to which an American could aspire—the presidency. All know how he directed the nation in

the time of its greatest peril. Statues have been erected to his memory all over the country. Little children in the public schools can tell the story of his life. Yet the character and accomplishments of his wife, who did more than any other influence to make him President of the United States, who suffered with him and encouraged him in his political career, have not a stone in all these United States to keep her memory fresh in the minds of the people. Through ignorance, her character has been assailed. She was impetuous. She did make mistakes, being human; but Lincoln turned to her for sympathy and encouragement, as the growing plant turns to the light and warmth of the sun. Sharer with him in the simple domestic life at Springfield and their unostentatious life in Washington while he was in Congress, she was equally sharer with him during the years of his presidency, perhaps the most trying period in the history of our nation.

There is little record of the tears of anguish, the many heartaches, the deprivations which entered into their more than twenty years of wedded co-partnership in the battle of life. As in the case of nearly all true wives and mothers, the real life of Mary Todd Lincoln is largely an unpublished volume—much too sacred for public consideration. The friends and neighbors of the Lincolns, who had the priceless privilege of a personal acquaintance with Mrs. Lincoln, revere her memory. They have an appreciation of her worth as an American woman, a wife and a mother.

In the interest of keeping the life of Mrs. Lincoln before posterity, Dr. J. M. Spencer, president of Sayre College, Lexington, Ky., is interesting the people of the nation in the project of erecting a building on the campus of Sayre College in the memory of this great woman. Those who are interested with Dr. Spencer in the forwarding of this movement are Henry Watterson, United States Senator W. O. Bradley, Colonel Bennett H. Young, Governor Augustus E. Willson, of Kentucky, and Emily Todd Helm, Mrs. Lincoln's sister. Mrs. Cyrus W. McCormick and Mrs. Emmons Blaine, of Chicago, have already made generous gifts. Together with the support of the metropolitan press of the country is the approval of the people of all States.

The proposed memorial will be a building that has been designed by a college architect and is complete in its apartments. The basement has a natatorium where the young ladies will be taught how to handle themselves in the water. There is also a gymnasium, with the

Nation Called Upon

Lincoln



WHILE congress has been appropriating \$500,000 for the erection of a national memorial to Abraham Lincoln, to stand close to the Washington monument, the movement to erect a testimonial to the wife of the war president has been taking definite shape. It has now reached the stage of accumulating the funds—\$100,000 to \$150,000 in amount, with \$50,000 addition as a maintenance fund—needed to assure the success of the movement. The fund is growing, but more money is wanted before the desire of those who wish to honor Mrs. Lincoln can take concrete form in the proposed memorial building on the campus at Sayre college, in Lexington, Ky., her birthplace.

"Mary Todd Lincoln memorial, for the erection of a memorial building to the wife of Abraham Lincoln, in Lexington, Ky., her home town, upon the campus of Sayre college, which is one of the oldest institutions in the south for the education of young women and girls. All of her relatives have been educated in this venerable institution, and it has been decided that this is and should be the place for such monument." So reads the official letter head of the women and men who are interested actively in the work of raising money for the memorial. At the head of the executive committee is Major General Daniel E. Sickles, Commodore A. V. Wadhams is the vice president of the committee, and the treasurer is the Rev. Dr. J. M. Spencer, president of Sayre college. The move-

ment has been indorsed heartily by the Grand Army of the Republic and other bodies of men and women interested in public affairs.

The proposed building is shown in the picture, together with the portrait of Mrs. Lincoln which is considered the best in existence. The structure will stand on a site given by the college. It will be three stories in height, exclusive of the basement, and will be fitted up in the most modern manner for educational purposes. In the basement there will be a gymnasium and swimming pool. The first story will have an assembly hall, with a stage for the production of plays by the students, etc. On the second story will be twenty classrooms, and the top floor will house the art department of the college and the main library room. Therein will be placed a bronze tablet showing President and Mrs. Lincoln seated at a table. It will surmount a marble

slab whereon will be inscribed the name of any donor of \$1,000 or more to the building fund. Some wealthy men and women have expressed interest in the memorial, but the efforts to raise money are not confined to the rich. It is proposed to make it a popular monument.

In honoring Mrs. Lincoln Dr. Spencer says the country will be but paying belated respect to the memory of a woman who has been greatly criticised by historians. They call her cold, haughty, irascible and accuse her of siding with the southern cause against her husband. Dr. Spencer calls this calumny, and he quotes in support of his position W. O. Stoddard, who was practically a secretary to Mrs. Lincoln during her life in the White House. In a recent letter to Dr. Spencer Mr. Stoddard says:

"I shall take a deep interest in the proposed memorial to a noble hearted

woman who was one of the best friends I ever had. During nearly the whole of her husband's first term I was half-jocularly described as 'Mrs. Lincoln's secretary,' her constant attendant at all receptions, public or social, and her adviser in many affairs. She was a woman much misrepresented and scandalously abused. For instance, the slanders assailing her patriotism, which was sincere and earnest, accusations of correspondence with 'secessionists,' etc. During all that time she would open no letter or parcel until I had opened and decided whether or not she should see it. The mass of vituperation sent her by mail never reached her. Tell your friends they are doing an act of simple righteousness. Mrs. Lincoln's course in the White House was admirable, unexceptionable, patriotic!"

South and north have joined in this movement to rear an edifice to the wife of the man now recognized as a foremost American. Mrs. Lincoln's family was a southern stock, although originally of Pennsylvania extraction. It was one of the most prominent in the south, wealthy, cultured, refined, with all the advantages lacking in the family of Lincoln. Its members were prominent in the military and civil affairs of Kentucky for many years, and the Todds figure on almost every page of early Kentucky history. It is recorded that Mary Todd was probably the first person to predict that she would marry a president of the United States, and with almost supernatural prescience she accepted Lincoln and rejected Stephen A. Douglas, despite the greater prominence of the latter man when he proposed to her.

Much has been written of Mrs. Lincoln's infirmity of temper. On this point the testimony of General Sickles is of value. In a recent address he said:

"It was my privilege to know President Lincoln and his consort through all the years they spent at the White House. I have never seen a more devoted couple. He always called her 'mother,' and she always called him 'father.' In their domestic relations and in their devotion to their children I have never seen a more congenial couple. He always looked to her for comfort and consolation in his troubles and cares. Indeed, the only joys poor Lincoln knew after reaching the White House were his wife and children. She shared all his troubles and never recovered from that culminating blow when he was assassinated."

Mrs. Lincoln was born at Lexington, Dec. 12, 1818. After the death of her husband her mind became clouded. She died in Springfield, Ill., on July 16, 1882. Her half sister, Mrs. Emily Todd Helm, widow of a Confederate general who was killed at Chickamauga, lives now, at an advanced age, in Louisville, Ky.

ARTHUR J. BRINTON.

most modern equipment. The first floor planned to have an assembly hall, with a stage well equipped for the girls' plays and other public occasions. The second floor is to have twenty well-lighted, well-ventilated class-rooms. The third floor will be used as a conservatory of art and a handsomely appointed library. The college has already received, from Dr. Frank Gunsaulus, of Chicago, a fine foundation for a library. This gift is a collection of books, published before 1500, which he has gathered during his trips to Europe. These books are valuable not only because they are first editions, but also because of association. Some of them were in the library of Thomas Carlyle. It is the plan, also, to place in the library a bronze statue of Mrs. Lincoln and her distinguished husband or a painting of them on the wall. Their lives were tragic and should be honored equally in their home town, as is proposed in the construction of this building, which will cost approximately not less than one hundred thousand dollars.

Situated as it is in the capital of the Blue Grass region of Kentucky, recommended by the successes of fifty-seven years, an institution where all her relatives have been educated, Sayre College is eminently fitted as a site for the memorial of this noted woman. It was incorporated with collegiate powers in 1854. The Hon. John C. Breckinridge, Vice-President under James Buchanan, secured from the Legislature of Ken-

tucky a charter under which the real estate of the college would be forever secure against mortgage or incumbrances. At this time the late David A. Sayre, of Lexington, formerly of New Jersey, and the son of General Washington's quartermaster, donated to the trustees in perpetuity the costly buildings and grounds—five acres—now occupied by the college.

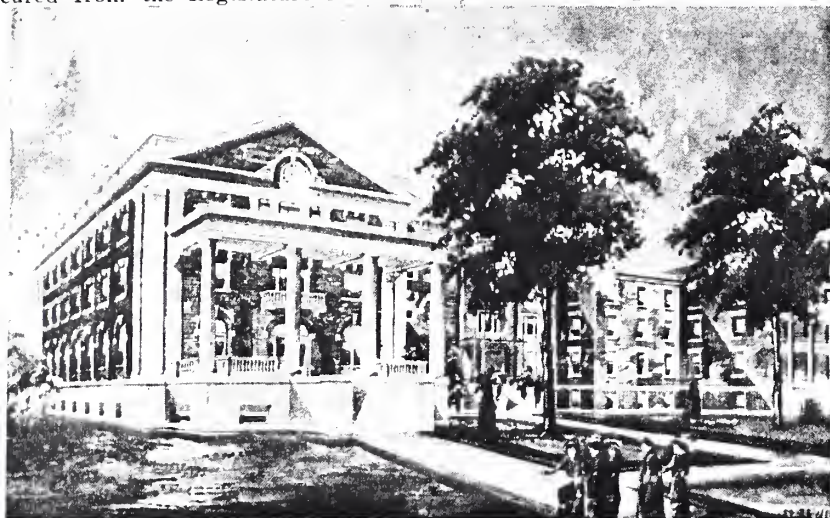
From the date of its founding to the present time the institution has never closed its doors, but has sent forth a constant stream of cultured young women to be a blessing to the home, state and church.

The college has stood for the development of womanhood in its highest sense. Her patronage has always been from the select families of the South—nine Southern States and two Western States are included this year. While this is true, she crushes artificial distinctions. Each student stands upon her own merit. It is a uniform college; thus the girls from humble families may be on the same social plane in dress, on public occasions, as the daughters of the wealthy.

Under its charter, the income over and above running expenses must be devoted to assisting the poor girl with ambition to the advantages of the college. This assistance is given without the knowledge of the faculty or students, other than the president and the student to whom the college gives assistance. The college welcomes girls of all religious

faiths. It is an accredited school of the Kentucky State University, Transylvania University and Wellesley College.

Among its alumnae, besides the women who preside over some of the happiest homes in America, are many of recognized literary talent. Gertrude Atherton, whose stories are known throughout the Americas and Europe, and Nancy Green, whose stories of Kentucky life have won a place in the best magazines of the day, are graduates.



THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO MRS. LINCOLN,
To be erected at Sayre College, Lexington, Ky.

The First Memorial to Mrs. Lincoln

How a Southern Woman's College Is to Build a Lasting
Tribute to the Great War President's Wife

By CLOE ARNOLD

Leslies Weekly, June 1, 1913.



DR. J. M. SPENCER,
President of Sayre College who originated the
idea of a memorial to Mrs. Lincoln.

EARLY HOME OF LINCOLN'S WIFE TO BE PURCHASED AS MEMORIAL DECEMBER 6, 1921.

LEXINGTON, Ky., December 6.—The home of Mary Todd Lincoln, where she lived from early childhood until her marriage to the martyred president, will be purchased as a memorial to her and a museum for the preservation of Lincoln furniture, manuscripts and other relics owned in Lexington, if plans of a group of interested citizens mature.

The old Todd home at 574 West Main street, formerly a saloon and now a soft drink stand and boarding house for railroad employees, is on the market for the first time in many years, and the site is being sought for business purposes by persons who wish to tear down the home. The owner is T. N. Author, proprietor of the confectionery.

Building Well Preserved.

The building is in a splendid state of preservation, and the quaintness of the interior has not been destroyed by several partitions, easily removed. The historic rooms where Mary Todd spent her happy childhood, where she received Mr. Lincoln, and where they visited after their marriage have not been changed.

While the Lincoln farm at Hodgenville, and the cabin in which it is claimed he was born have been acquired for the nation at the cost of a million dollars, the part which Mrs. Lincoln had in preserving the nation has not been recognized, and the house in which she was born has been destroyed, only part of the old foundation remaining as the basis for another home at 501 West Short street, Lexington.

Option Already Obtained.

An option has been obtained on the property, and civic and historical clubs have become interested in the purchase, either by local subscription or a nation-wide appeal, such as was made for funds to buy the Abraham Lincoln birthplace. The presidents of business men's clubs have passed resolutions favoring the purchase, and the permanent interest and value of the home as a historic shrine and headquarters for historical societies have led to the anticipation that the Bradford Club may be the agency through which action is taken.

The property can be bought for

\$14,000, and it is thought that \$5,000 or \$6,000 would be needed to restore it. Furniture used by the Lincolns in the White House, letters, manuscripts and other relics are in the possession of relatives of Mrs. Lincoln and other families in Fayette county, and it is planned to have these in the home, which would be under the administration of one of the historical societies.

Property Conveyed.

June 13, 1856, Abraham Lincoln, his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and others conveyed the property to Benjamin F. Edge, to settle the estate of Robert S. Todd, deceased, and the deed of record is in the Fayette county courthouse.

Robert Todd bought the property May 17, 1832, from William Palmeteer. It was conveyed to the present owner, T. N. Arthur, June 20, 1920, by John Gund.

The fact that Lexington is on the Dixie, Jackson and Boone highways and the Midland trail, and is becoming more and more popular with tourists who seek points of historical interest, is given as an added reason for the purchase and preservation of the Todd home by those interested.

Plans for the ceremonies attending the dedication, if the home is purchased, would include an invitation to Robert Lincoln, son of the President, and Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm, a resident of Fayette county, who is a sister of Mrs. Lincoln.



The old Todd home in Columbia, Mo., as it looks today. Here Lincoln courted Mary Todd and here, in all probability, they became affianced

Mrs. Lincoln's Home Is to Be Preserved as Memorial to Her



MRS. MARY TODD LINCOLN, AND HER LEXINGTON HOME AS IT LOOKS TODAY.

Lexington, Ky., Jan. 7.—The old home of Mary Todd Lincoln, at 754 West Main street this city, where she lived from early childhood until her marriage to the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, will be purchased as a memorial to her and used as a museum for the exhibition and preservation of Lincoln relics, if plans of a group of public spirited Lexington citizens, recently announced, are realized.

The old Todd home, where Mary Todd lived as a girl and was courted later by Abraham Lincoln, is now occupied as a boarding house for railroad employes and a soft drink stand. It has recently been thrown on the market, and the site is being sought for business purposes by persons who wish to tear down the house. The property is owned by T. N. Arthur, proprietor of the soft drink stand.

The building is in an excellent state of preservation, and the picturesque quaintness of the interior has not been effaced by several partitions installed by the present owner, but which may be easily removed. The historic rooms, where Mary Todd spent her happy childhood, have undergone no change.

Birthplace Has Been Razed.

While the original Lincoln farm at Hodgenville, Ky., and the cabin in which the martyred president first saw the light of day have been ac-

quired for the nation as a sacred shrine at the cost of more than \$1,000,000, the part that Mrs. Lincoln had in preserving the nation has not been generally recognized, and the house in which she was born has been destroyed, only part of the old foundation remaining as the basis for another home at 501 West Shirt street, Lincoln.

An option has been obtained on the property, and several civic and historical clubs here have become interested in the purchase, either by local subscription or a nation-wide appeal, such as was made for funds to buy the Lincoln birthplace. Several of the civic clubs of Lexington, among them the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lion, Pyramid and Optimist clubs, have recently adopted resolutions favoring the purchase and the conversion of the home into a historic shrine and museum, and an effort is being made to have the John Bradford Historical society here sponsor the movement for raising the necessary funds for the acquisition of the property. The owner asks \$14,000, according to the option just taken, and it is estimated that it would cost from \$6,000 to \$10,000 to restore and equip it.

Inquiry has developed the fact that there is considerable furniture owned by the Lincolns while they occupied the White House, pictures, letters, manuscripts and other relics of the

Todd and Lincoln families now in the possession of relatives of Mrs. Lincoln and other families now living in this city and vicinity, and it is planned to procure these and place them in the home, which would be under the administration of one of the local historical societies.

Lincoln Sold It in 1856.

There is now a deed on record in the Fayette county clerk's office here, showing that on June 18, 1856, Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and others conveyed the property to Benjamin F. Edge to settle the estate of Robert S. Todd, deceased. Robert Todd bought the property May 17, 1832, from William Palmateer, and it was conveyed to the present owner, T. N. Arthur, June 30, 1920, by John Gund, former president of the Lexington Brewing company, who acquired it several years ago.

Plans for the ceremonies attending the dedication, if the home is purchased and converted into an historical shrine, would include, according to those behind the movement an invitation to Robert T. Lincoln, son of the martyred president, and Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm, sister of Mrs. Lincoln, who is now a resident of this county, and who has in her possession many valuable relics of the Lincolns, which she has signified her willingness to place in the proposed memorial building.

"Buena Vista"—The Todd Summer Home

Abraham Lincoln Spent Many Happy Days Here

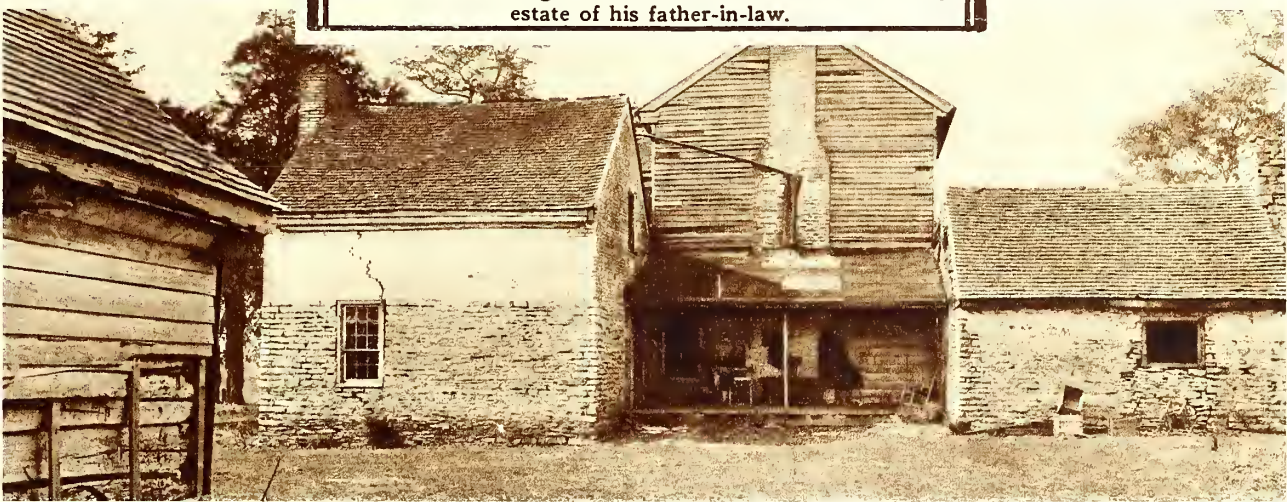


"BUENA VISTA"

The front of what was once an imposing mansion, facing the first railroad built in the West in a valley below.

The home of Robert S. Todd, father of Mary Todd, in Lexington is well-known, but "Buena Vista," the summer home of the Todds, located about five miles east of Frankfort on the Leestown pike, has gone unsung and unnoticed. Lincoln and his wife often took the "steam cars" from Lexington in summer to the cool country estate of his father-in-law.

Below: The rear of the home showing the old stone slave houses. Note the original logs exposed in the century-old "smokehouse" at left.



Looking from the rear of the home. In the foreground (beneath the tree in center) are twin springs, from which Lincoln drank—and probably inhaled the fragrant mint beds clustered around them.



View from front of house showing the old stone fences built by Todd's slaves. Incidentally, the reason for "Buena Vista" is revealed.

—Photos by Cusick

Home of Mary Todd, Lincoln's Wife, Would Be National Shrine If Located Elsewhere, Belief of C. Frank Dunn



HOME OF MARY TODD LINCOLN

By C. FRANK DUNN

What doubtless would be preserved as a national shrine if located elsewhere, instead of being an abandoned grocery and a public boarding house, stands on West Main street in Lexington to remind busy Lexingtonians of their delinquency—the Mary Todd Home.

It was here that Mary Todd lived when she became the wife of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln did not court her at this home of her father, Robert S. Todd, for the reason that he did not meet her until she made a visit to her sister in Springfield, Ill., which culminated in the marriage, but the couple made frequent visits to the bride's Kentucky home after their marriage.

It is claimed that Lincoln, on one of these visits to his wife's home in Lexington, saw his first slave sale on historic Cheapside. It is further known that Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln spent many happy days the warm summer months at Robert Todd's country home, "Buena Vista," in Franklin county. Lincoln and Mary took the "steam cars" from Lexington to the Todd country home, and the country visits must have been an enjoyable respite from his labors to "The Great Commoner," as the home in Franklin county, still standing, occupies a commanding site over a beautiful valley, which gave the home its name.

While Lexingtonians have not expressed undue appreciation of the fact that the Mary Todd Home is

located in this city, it is not without its fame in the outside world. The Indiana Lincoln Association some time ago sent to Lexington for some bricks from the home to be used in building a memorial to Nancy Hanks. More recently a 50-pound stone from the home's foundation was expressed to the National Girl Scouts "Little House," in Washington, D. C., where it is today one of the most interesting parts of a historical rock garden at the "Little House." The stone was received and installed on the eve of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to the "Little House"—a custom followed by the wives of all Presidents.

The Mary Todd Home bears a marker, for all that it has been otherwise neglected by community,

Dunn

ate and nation. The Pyramid Club, of Lexington, which somehow other finds time to pick up the loose ends" of responsibilities that other Lexington clubs either "muff" ignore, had a bronze tablet made, giving a thumb-nail sketch of the historic house. The tablet may be seen in the above illustration next to the far panel of the door.

There has been talk from time to time of doing far more than erecting a tablet on the house. When Mary Todd lived here, there was an expansive yard, with flower gardens and the natural landscaping that marked the homes of prominent residents such as Robert S. Todd. Some local citizens have conferred times about creating sufficient interest to have the property acquired and restored just as it was a century ago. In addition to restoring the home, both inside and out,

a Lincoln museum was contemplated. Some of the most priceless Lincoln relics extant are in the local collection of William H. Townsend, Lexington attorney and outstanding Lincoln historian, and an exhibition of this collection alone would make the shrine of national importance if the home and collection could be obtained for such a purpose.

It is appropriate to mention, while on the subject of the Mary Todd Home, that the summer home, "Buena Vista," in Franklin county is in a seriously neglected condition. Not that any move has been made to acquire it for a shrine, but as a mere matter of information, it is disintegrating to such an extent that anyone who desires to see it should not postpone the visit indefinitely. It is located on the Lees-town pike near the Franklin-Woodford line.



The Lincoln Kinsman

Number 5

Fort Wayne, Indiana

November, 1938

THE TODD FAMILY

THE ILLUSTRIOUS AND PATRIOTIC FOREBEARS OF ABRAHAM
LINCOLN'S WIFE

ONE will search the annals of Kentucky history in vain for a more heroic and colorful family than the Todds. Just how much of the folklore relating to this family became a part of President Lincoln's home atmosphere is problematical, but undoubtedly he was more or less influenced by it.

Little attention seems to have been paid by historians to the contributions of a cultural and educational nature which may have been made to Abraham Lincoln by his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln. Playwrights, novelists, and some biographers interested in the Lincoln story have dealt harshly with Mary Todd because of one or two of her eccentricities which have been flagrantly exaggerated.

Most certainly one who lived with a man as his wife for over twenty-two years would contribute something to her husband's intellectual development, especially if she had

received the advantages of a liberal education and he had been deprived of very much formal schooling. The same might be said with reference to the influence to one brought up in a cultural home atmosphere over another brought up in the most humble surroundings.

It would be safe to assume that Mary Todd played a very large part in the rise of Abraham Lincoln, and that she also was successful, more or less, in training him in the fine art of social behavior. Just what the Todd family was able to contribute to Abraham Lincoln through the member of their clan who married him can best be approached by a study of Mary Todd's ancestors.

Springfield, Illinois was a haven of the Todd family, and here the kinsmen and kinswomen of Mary Todd Lincoln must have kept alive in their homes the stories of pioneer adventure in which their forebears had participated. No group had a

better right to be classed among the "first families" than the Kentucky Todds.

The earliest stories of adventure which would be reviewed in the home of the Lincolns would be the Indian raids and military exploits of Revolution days. Abraham Lincoln's paternal grandfather was massacred in 1786 by Indians in Kentucky, and Mary Todd's paternal grandfather saw his own brother shot down in an Indian encounter also in Kentucky. When Abraham Lincoln, the pioneer, came to Kentucky in 1782, he was undoubtedly aware that Colonel John Todd was one of the brave men slain at the Blue Licks.

Military Success

The military achievements of Mary Todd's forebears indicate a brave and courageous ancestry. Three Todd brothers, John, Robert, and Levi, arrived in Kentucky as early as 1776, when the country was still the common hunting ground of numerous Indian tribes. All three of these brothers saw service under George Rogers Clark, and while the "Red-coats" were looked upon as a menace and a hazard on the Atlantic coast, the "Redskins" were the aggressive contenders for the exclusive control of Kentucky, "the dark and bloody ground".

The oldest brother, John Todd, was an aide to General Lewis in the battle of Point Pleasant. At Kaskaskia he succeeded General Clark in command, and in 1782 he was appointed a colonel of Fayette County militia. In August of the same year a combined force of British and Indians met the Kentuckians at Blue

Licks, and Colonel John Todd was killed in action.

Levi Todd, brother of John, was also in the Blue Lick battle but came out of the wholesale massacre without injury. Levi, the grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln, is said to have been with Clark at both Vincennes and Kaskaskia where he was ranked as a lieutenant. Later on he succeeded Colonel Daniel Boone as commander of the Kentucky militia and was raised to the rank of major general.

The third brother, Robert, likewise became active in Indian warfare. Soon after his arrival in Kentucky he was in battle with the Indians at McClellan's Station and was severely wounded. Under George Rogers Clark he served as paymaster. He also was raised to the rank of general in the Kentucky militia and under General Anthony Wayne served as a brigadier general. A fourth brother, Owen, who settled in Ohio also was a famous Indian fighter.

It would be natural to expect that out of the families of these military officers there would be many sons who would be found in military service. Space will permit the reviewing of an adventure of but one of them.

Robert Smith Todd was the son of Levi Todd and the father of Mary Todd Lincoln. But one episode will suffice to reveal that he was also a brave and courageous man. At the time the war of 1812 broke, Robert was a captain of a local military company, and he and his men immediately enlisted with the Lexington Light Infantry. While in field service he contracted pneumonia and was

sent back to Lexington to regain his health.

Upon becoming convalescent toward the last of November, 1812, he again joined his company then in camp on the Maumee River, although he was advised that winter had already set in in earnest. He was in the expedition against Frenchtown, and in this battle nearly half of the Lexington company was annihilated by the Indians. Two brothers of Robert, Samuel and John Todd, were wounded, but Robert escaped injury.

In the battle of Blue Licks fought in 1782, Levi Todd, grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln, saw his own brother shot down by Indians. Thirty years later the scene changes to the River Raisen, and Robert, the father of Mary Todd Lincoln, participated in a battle with the Indians in which two of his brothers were injured and captured by the red men. Thus the battle of Blue Licks was lived over again in the memories of the Todd family.

It is not strange that when the war between the states broke out in 1861 the children, whose grandfather fought in the Revolution of 1776 and whose own father fought in the War of 1812, would immediately offer their services to the section of the country where their sympathies directed them. One of the brothers of Mary Todd Lincoln was named George Rogers Clark Todd which is evidence enough of the military atmosphere in which the Todd men had lived.

Mary Todd Lincoln's own brother, named after the noted General Clark, enlisted as a surgeon in the confederate service and was a physician of

some reputation. Three of her half brothers, Samuel, David, and Alexander, also entered the southern army, and three of her half sisters were wives of Confederate officers. Two of the brothers were killed outright in action and the third died from wounds. Mrs. Lincoln's brother-in-law, General Ben Hardin Helm, died in fighting for the Confederacy.

With so many close kinsmen enlisted on the side of the confederacy and the majority of them war casualties, it will be observed how deeply Mary Todd Lincoln was grieved over the lamentable civil struggle. Yet she was loyal to her husband and her own real sentiments with respect to the stand she felt her native state should take.

A little known letter which Mary wrote to Colonel John Fry of Kentucky was printed in the *Louisville Journal*. The *Boston Journal* clipped the letter and made this comment upon it: "It has been published in the Southern papers that the sympathies of the President's wife are with the secessionists. The following very handsome letter received by one of our fellow Kentuckians, says the *Louisville Journal*, does not indicate it:

"Executive Mansion, June 20, 1861.

Colonel John Fry—My Dear Sir: It gives me very great pleasure to be the medium of transmission of these weapons to be used in the defense of national sovereignty upon the soil of Kentucky.

Though some years have passed since I left my native State, I have never ceased to contemplate her progress in happiness and prosperity with sentiments of fond and filial

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pride. In every effort of industrial energy, in every enterprise of honor and valor, my heart has been with her. And I rejoice in the consciousness that, at this time, when the institutions to whose fostering care we owe all that we have of happiness and glory are rudely assailed by ungrateful and parricidal hands, the State of Kentucky, ever true and loyal furnishes to the insulted flag of the Union a guard of her best and bravest sons. On every field the prowess of Kentuckians has been manifested. In the holy cause of national defense they must be invincible.

Please accept, sir, these weapons as a token of the love I shall never cease to cherish for my mother State, of the pride with which I have always regarded the exploits of her sons, and of the confidence which I feel in the ultimate loyalty of her people, who, while never forgetting the homage which their beloved State may justly claim, still remember the higher and grander allegiance due to our common country.

Yours very sincerely.

MARY LINCOLN."

Educational Advantages

While the military activities of the three generations of Todds at once stamp them as brave men, a more direct influence on the atmosphere of the Mary Todd Lincoln home may be found in the intellectual pursuits of the forebears of Lincoln's wife.

Rev. John Todd, brother of David Todd and an uncle of John, Levi, and Robert, was in reality the sponsor of education among his kinsfolks. He graduated from Princeton University in 1749 and became a noted clergyman and educator. The Todd boys mentioned above were sent to him for their schooling while he was living in Louisa County, Virginia.

The three Todd brothers who started out for Kentucky in 1776 were well equipped mentally to become leaders in the frontier country. Green, Kentucky historian, called John Todd, the oldest brother, "the best educated and most accomplished of all the early pioneers and surveyors of Kentucky." His career was cut short, however, for when he was about thirty years of age he was massacred by the Indians.

Rev. John Todd of Virginia did more for the education of the Kentucky Todds than merely tutoring the three pioneers. In the very community where his kinsmen established their wilderness homes he was largely instrumental in the establishment of Transylvania Seminary, the oldest institution of advanced knowledge west of the Allegheny mountains. He obtained from Virginia the state charter for the institution.

The first recorded meeting of the

trustees of Transylvania Seminary was on November 10, 1783, and Levi Todd, grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln, was present at the meeting. Upon his death in 1807 Henry Clay was elected to the board of trustees to succeed General Todd. A recent biographer of Mary Todd Lincoln states that "There were few of the catalogues of Transylvania in its earlier years that did not carry the name of one or more of the Todds or the near Todd relatives in some list of trustees, faculty, or students."

At the May 1780 session of the Virginia Legislature, an act was passed to make certain escheated tracts of land in Kentucky County available for school funds. An eight thousand acre tract was set apart as a gift from the state "for the purpose of a public school or seminary of learning to be erected within the said county."

At the head of the list of ten trustees appears the name of John Todd, and fifth in the list is the name of John's brother, Levi Todd. These were the trustees who guided the preliminary steps for the establishment of Transylvania Seminary. The Todd name for many years was to be closely linked with this college for which the charter had been obtained by Rev. John Todd of Virginia.

Although Levi Todd had eleven children, all of them were well-educated. Robert Smith Todd, father of Mary Todd Lincoln, entered Transylvania College when he was but fourteen years of age.

A certificate signed by the President of the college, James Blythe, states that Robert Smith Todd had studied "mathematics, geography,

rhetoric, logic, natural and moral philosophy, astronomy, Latin, Greek and history."

Mary Todd herself was a fine example of the intellectual standing of the Todd family, having been brought up in the atmosphere of Transylvania University with the fortunes of the college continually the subject in the home, and the student body and faculty comprising an important part of the population. It is to be regretted that this school of higher learning was not open to women when Mary was growing up.

Transylvania was supplemented, however, by several excellent educational institutions for women located in Lexington. One which Mary attended was the Ward Private School, adjacent to the Transylvania campus. Mary Todd Lincoln undoubtedly had as fine a formal education as any young woman in the western country and she had completed seven years of what would now be termed high school and college work by the time she went to Springfield, Illinois to make her home.

While the military and educational achievements of the Todds brought indirectly to Abraham Lincoln some contribution of patriotism and literary appreciation, it was probably the cultural atmosphere of the family which more directly influenced him.

Cultural Advantages

To name the Todds among the first families of Kentucky is no exaggeration. In fact they had always been among the first families for even in Scotland they had been superior people. In Pennsylvania where they

established their colonial homes they were well-to-do and immediately became associated with and intermarried into prominent and influential families.

Their early arrival in the wilderness, it is true, gave them certain economic advantages, and it may be said they were among the "first families" in respect to time of arrival as in many other ways. Depositions made by Robert Todd state that "In May, 1776 he came to Boonesborough on Kentucky River and in a few days came from thence to Floyd's settlement, called Woodstock, in company of several that were in Kentucky before he, the deponent, came."

In another of his depositions taken in Fayette County on August 29, 1803, this statement appears about the establishment of the pioneer settlement bearing the name, Todd's Station: "In the year 1779 in the month of October or November I accompanied my brother Levi Todd with his family, with several other families, from Harrodsburg to the north side of the Kentucky River where they were about to commence a new settlement and accordingly they stopped and built a station at the place where Colonel Bowman now lives which was called and known for some years by the name of Todd's Station."

The economic standing of the two Todd brothers who survived the Indian warfare in Kentucky is indicated by the public records.

The commissioner's books for Fayette County 1797 reveal that Levi Todd was in possession of fifteen slaves, seven horses, fourteen tracts of land and one lot in Lexington. His

brother, General Robert Todd, listed for taxation ten slaves, six horses, twenty-three tracts of land and eleven lots in Lexington.

The father of Mary Todd became a very successful business man and was recognized as one of the state's most influential citizens. He became the first president of the Branch Bank of Kentucky, was owner of a wholesale business house in Lexington and under the firm name, Oldham, Todd & Company, engaged in the manufacturing of cotton at Sandersville near Lexington.

Political Recognition

With military success, intellectual background, and social attainments it is not strange that the Todds occupied prominent positions in the local and state governments. This was especially true inasmuch as many of them studied law. John Todd was called by one historian "The Father of the Kentucky Bar." What a distinction in a state noted for its barristers.

This same John Todd was in the convention as assembled at Boonville in 1775. In 1777 he was elected a representative of Kentucky County in the Virginia House of Burgesses. Appointed by Patrick Henry to assist General Clark in setting up a territorial government for the Illinois country, he virtually became the head of its civil officers. Later on he was made county lieutenant of the newly created Fayette County of Kentucky. It is said that as early as 1780 he introduced in the Virginia legislature a bill for negro emancipation. Yet with such an illustrious career he was but thirty-two years of age when his untimely death occurred.

John's brother, Robert, represented Kentucky in the Virginia legislature and was present at the famous Danville convention in which Kentucky attempted to set up a state organization of her own. Here his influence was keenly felt. After Kentucky did become a state, General Robert Todd was the first senator sent to the legislature from Fayette County.

True to the traditions of his forebears, Robert Smith Todd very early began a political career, being chosen clerk of the Kentucky House of Representatives, which position he held for more than twenty years. He be-

came an active Whig and in 1844 was elected to the state senate. The father of Mary Todd was a great Clay enthusiast and had much to do with the Clay candidacy for the Presidency.

Locally Mr. Todd, upon the incorporation of the city of Lexington in 1831, was elected on its first board of council, and for many years he was a member of the Fayette County court.

There is no doubt but what Mary Todd's admiration for Abraham Lincoln was more or less influenced by his prominent place among the Illinois Whigs, and, politically, Lincoln and his wife saw eye to eye.

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Influences exerted over Mary Todd in her girlhood days vividly set forth.

TODD GENEALOGY

Just a few scattering names of the Todd family are available, and the following genealogical tables are very incomplete. Such information as we have is published here in order that it may encourage some one to compile a list of Todd relatives, making it possible to trace relationships.

First Generation

Robert

- (1) Parker, _____
- (2) Bodley, Isabella

Second Generation

Robert

- (1) Smith, Ann
- (2) Hamilton, Isabelle

Third Generation

David

Owens, Hannah

Fourth Generation

John

Robert
Todd, _____

Levi

Briggs, Jane
(Eleven children in this family)

Owen

Fifth Generation*(Children of Levi and Jane Todd)*

Robert Smith

- (1) Parker, Eliza
- (2) Porter, Betsy

Samuel

John

Jane Briggs
Burk, Daniel

David

Eliza

Carr, Charles M.

Ann Mariah
(Unmarried)***Sixth Generation****(Children of Robert and Eliza Todd)*

Elizabeth

Edwards, Ninnian W. .

Frances

Wallace, William W.

Levi O.

Searles

Mary (Ann)

Lincoln, Abraham

Robert P. (Died in infancy)

Ann

Smith, C. M.

George

(1) Curry, _____

(2) _____?

Robert S. (Died in infancy)

(Children of Robert and Betsy Todd)

Margaret

Kellogg, C. H.

Samuel Briggs (Unmarried)

David H.

Williamson, Mrs.

Martha K.

White, C. B.

Emilie

Helm, B. H.

Alexander H. (Unmarried)

Elodi

Dawson, N. H. R.

Katherine Bodley

Herr, W. W.

2-5
Lexington Mary Todd

March 10, 1939

Mrs. Pat Golden
574 West Main
Mary Todd Home
Lexington, Kentucky

My dear Mrs. Golden:

I told you I would write upon returning to my office in Fort Wayne and make some suggestions which possibly might be helpful in allowing you to come to some conclusion with reference to the disposition of the Todd Home.

My first thought is that you should not under any consideration lease the residence for a term of years to the present occupants for this would most certainly stand in your way of any program you may wish to develop with reference to the Home.

My own thought is that if you could get a reasonable sum of money for the home, it could then be properly invested, and you would probably secure about as much remuneration from it as you would through some business enterprise of your own, and of course there would be much less work.

There do not seem to be any buyers, however, and I am under the impression that you would do well to secure such little tokens as might add some atmosphere to the rooms downstairs, fitting them up with furniture of the period when the Todds occupied the home, securing a few little souvenirs in the way of booklets and pictures of Mary Todd which might bear directly upon the Todd house and then charge a fee of say 25 cents, you would I believe be able to realize something for the amount of money you would have to spend to get the place ready.

As explained to you upon my visit there it seems to me it would be much more preferable to have in the vacant store if it should become vacant after the restaurant lease expires an antique shop or some type of industry which would harmonize with a historical

I will be pleased to do all that I can to assist you in any project in which you may wish to proceed.

Under separate cover I am sending you some pamphlets and pictures which I think would be of interest to you.

LAW:EB

Yours very truly,

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 892

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 13, 1946

MARY LINCOLN'S KENTUCKY HOME

The editor of Lincoln Lore recently received a letter from the secretary of the Detroit Lincoln Group commenting on the probable demolition of the Mary Todd Lincoln Kentucky Home at Lexington. In this letter he states "the house is about to be razed to make room for a gas station. Five or six thousand dollars would save it." He further comments, "I am bringing up the matter in our group and trying to start something in the way of a fund to save the situation. Don't you feel that it would be a worthy project if all groups might get together and do something about saving this landmark?"

Mary Todd was not born in the house at 574 West Main Street, Lexington, but lived there from early childhood until she moved to Springfield, Illinois, in 1839 to make her home with her sister, Mrs. Edwards. Although the building has been somewhat disfigured by the setting apart of some space on the first floor for a store room, the building could yet be restored to its original form.

Twenty-five years ago the Chicago Evening Post displayed a picture of the Todd home supplemented with this statement: "A group of public-spirited citizens of Lexington is planning to purchase the old structure and use it as a museum for Lincoln relics owned in Lexington and as a memorial to her."

Later in 1921 the Washington Star referring to the same project stated "An option has been obtained on the property and civic and historical clubs have become interested in the purchase, either by local subscription or a nation-wide appeal."

In January, 1922, the Illinois State Register carried a story about the anticipated memorial stating that "several of the civic clubs of Lexington among them the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Pyramid and Optimist Clubs have newly adopted resolutions favoring the purchase and the conversion of the home into a historic shrine and museum."

Nothing ever came of these projects with the possible exception that they may have encouraged the Pyramid Club of Lexington to place a tablet on the outside wall of the building giving a brief sketch of the structure's history.

An article by J. Frank Dunn appearing in the Lexington Herald for January 30, 1936, again called attention to the neglected condition of the structure as the store room of the building was then vacant. Mr. Dunn observed "what doubtless would be preserved as a national shrine if located elsewhere, instead of being an abandoned grocery and a public boarding house, stands on West Main Street in Lexington to remind busy Lexingtonians of other delinquency—The Mary Todd House."

On several different occasions the writer has attempted to renew interest in the project by preparing monographs and by arranging for interviews and public addresses in

Lexington. In 1939 Mrs. Golden was in possession of the building and she was advised to charge a small entrance admission and utilize the store room as an antique and souvenir shop until such a time as she might be able to interest historical groups in purchasing the house.

About 1932 there was some new activity evident in the memorial property and an option on the house was again secured but the price was prohibitive so the matter was dropped. The house was later sold at a nominal figure to a man who wished to use it for commercial purposes which brought a protest from the colored church on the opposite corner. The church stands on the same lot for which Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln and others conveyed the property to the grantee on June 18, 1856, to settle the estate of Robert S. Todd.

Another visit to Lexington in March, 1942, allowed the writer to make a public appeal to a luncheon club group and to interview members of the Chamber of Commerce with respect to the importance of preserving the Todd House. A group of women became interested in the project at this time and received a more reasonable proposition from the owner than had been submitted to former groups, allowing a period of five years to pay for it. Later in the same year when the 100th anniversary of the wedding date of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd drew near the writer prepared a manuscript on the Lincoln-Todd wedding which was printed in the Lexington Leader for November 1, 1942.

This article may have been partly responsible one month later for the purchase of the property by Sterling D. Coke who according to information from J. Frank Dunn, "would preserve it to be made an historical shrine after the war." On January 7, 1943, the editor of Lincoln Lore wrote a letter to Mr. Coke congratulating him on the fine accomplishment of preserving the house in which Kentucky's most famous woman lived.

As late as 1944 the writer again visiting Lexington, both in public and in private emphasized the importance of preserving the building and attempted to get a personal interview with Mr. Coke about the status of the project, but he was absent from the city so not available.

Now comes the letter already mentioned, from Mr. Heber of Detroit who has returned from Lexington with information from Mr. William H. Townsend, a well known Lincoln student of that city, stating that it now appears as if the Todd home is to be sacrificed to make room for a filling station. If any further organized effort to save the property is to be made it must be done at once. Even now the building may be in the process of being razed, but it has passed successfully through so many crises one hopes that even yet there is time to save the structure for memorial purposes.

Note. "See the June, 1946, issue of the Filson Club Quarterly for an article on the education of Mary Todd Lincoln and the cultured atmosphere she was able to create in her Springfield home."

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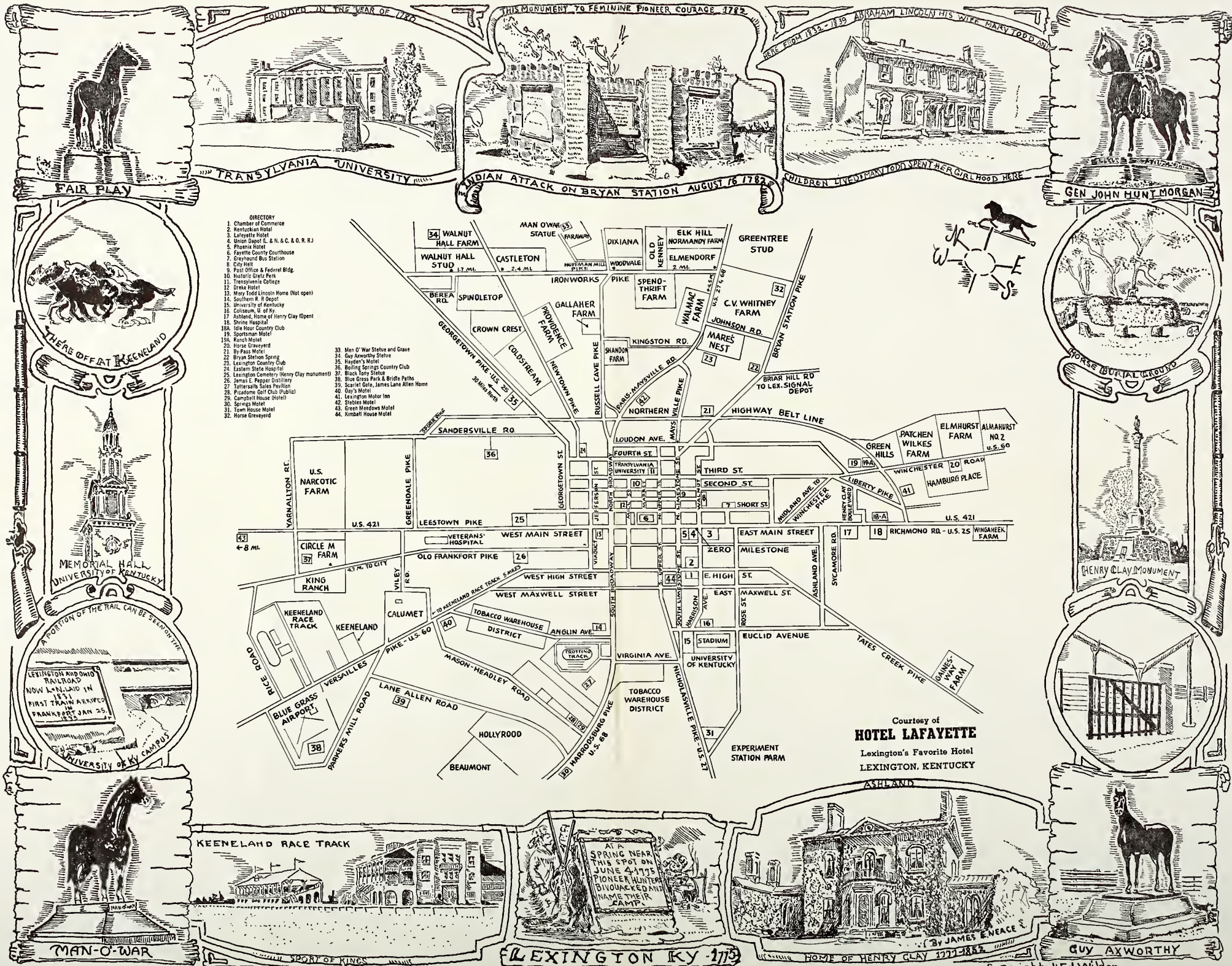
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- DIRECTORY
1. Chamber of Commerce
 2. Kentucky Hotel
 3. Lafayette Hotel
 4. Union Depot (L. & N. & C. & O. R. R.)
 5. Phoenix Hotel
 6. Fayette County Courthouse
 7. Greenwood Bus Station
 8. City Hall
 9. Post Office & Federal Bldg.
 10. Historic Grays Park
 11. Transylvania College
 12. Owsen Hotel
 13. Mary Todd Lincoln Home (Not open)
 14. Southern R. R. Depot
 15. University of Kentucky
 16. Coliseum, U. of Ky.
 17. Ashland, Home of Henry Clay (Open)
 18. Shrine Hospital
 19. Idle Hour Country Club
 20. Sportsman Motel
 21. Ranch Motel
 22. Horse Cemetery
 23. Bryan Station Spring
 24. Lexington Country Club
 25. Eastern State Hospital
 26. Lexington Cemetery (Henry Clay monument)
 27. James E. Pepper Distillery
 28. Tattersalls Sales Pavilion
 29. Piccadome Golf Club (Public)
 30. Campbell House (Hotel)
 31. Springs Motel
 32. Town House Motel
 33. Horse Cemetery
 34. Man-o-War Statue and Grave
 35. Guy Axworthy Statue
 36. Hayden's Motel
 37. Bowling Springs Country Club
 38. Black Tony Steak
 39. Blue Grass Park & Bridge Paths
 40. Scarlet Gully, James Lane Allen Home
 41. Guy's Motel
 42. Lexington Motor Inn
 43. Shelby's Motel
 44. Green Meadows Motel
 45. Kimball House Motel

Courtesy of
HOTEL LAFAYETTE
Lexington's Favorite Hotel
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Mary Lincoln Home To Become G.O.P. Offices

Lexington, Ky., Jan. 7 (AP)—The Fayette County Republican Executive Committee said Saturday it has bought the Mary Todd Lincoln Home here to use as party headquarters.

Republican clubs and committees in the area will be invited to make their headquarters in the building, where Abraham Lincoln's wife lived in the 1830's, a spokesman for the committee said.

Lincoln visited the home many times between 1847 and 1850. Since then it has been at various times a rooming house, a saloon, a handbook, and a combined used-furniture store and rooming house.

J. Winston Coleman, Jr.

WINDBURN FARM--RUSSELL CAVE ROAD

Lexington, Kentucky

June 21, 1962

Dear Gerald:

Your letter of the 19th came in today's mail. As to ~~the~~ Buena Vista, Madam Mentelle's school and Ellerslie - they are no longer standing, and I doubt if you would care to list them. Buena Vista - 18 miles from Lexington, on the Lees-town Pike, in Franklin County, was torn down in 1947 or 1948; and Ellerslie was razed in January, 1947.

Yes, I think it is claimed that Lincoln visited both Buena Vista and Ellerslie, which stood about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Lexington, on the Richmond Pike, opposite the Lexington Water Company No. 1 reservoir.

The home of Thomas Lincoln was located at the settlement of South Elkhorn, 5 miles south of Lexington, on the Lexington-Harrodsburg Pike (U. S. Highway 68).

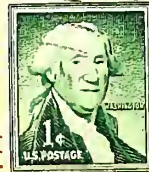
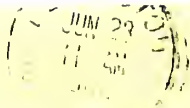
There has not been published a guide to the highway markers erected by the state of Kentucky. It is planned on doing this in a couple of years when there been a sufficient number erected to make the book. Gov. Bert Combs has appropriated \$15,000 this year for the markers and a lot of them will go up in 1962 and 1963.

With best wishes -

Very cordially yours,

Winston

Dr. Gerald McMurtry.
Fort Wayne, Indiana.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry - Director.
Lincoln National Life Foundation.
Fort Wayne 1, Indiana.

J. WINSTON COLEMAN, JR. WINBURN FARM LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

6/23

Dear Gerald:

The Jouett portrait of Robert S. Todd is owned by William H. Townsend, 28 Mentelle Park, Lexington, Ky. It hangs in his dining room. He also owns the watch Lincoln wore the night he was killed, and part of the collar, etc. You probably already knew of these, but might want to list them.

Best wishes -

Winston

J. Winston Coleman, Jr.

WINBURN FARM - RUSSELL DAVE ROAD
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

July 18th, 1962

Dear Gerald:

Yours of the 13th came to hand and glad to hear from you again. I don't understand why the telephone operator could not find my number - it is 2-8658, and has been listed at this location for the last 27 years.

In my weekly article in the Lexington Herald-Leader under the title of "Historic Kentucky," which appears each Sunday with a picture and a write-up, I had the Ward's Academy and the site of Mary Todd's birthplace. This series has run, in all, now over seven years, and I believe I can keep it going for another two or three.

In the next day or so, I will copy the data from both of the above articles and forward to you; I don't have much on "Grandma Parker's" house which stood (and is still standing) immediately west of the Mary Todd birthplace site. It is currently being used (as has been for last 40 years) as the orphan's asylum of Lexington. I don't think Mary Todd ever lived there, but as she was born ^{next door} and reared up ^{to} an early teen-age, it is likely that she played there and in the big front yard of her grandmother. This house is pretty well mentioned in Bill Townsend's Lincoln and his Wife's Home Town. Possibly you had better write to him for additional data on it. He is able to answer his letters, etc. In the next issue of Lincoln Herald, I will have a short article, with pictures, on the birthplace of Mary Todd.

Very cordially,

Winston

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry.
Lincoln National Life Foundation.
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

WILLIAM H. TOWNSEND
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

July 30, 1962

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:--

I think the subject you are now working on for Lincoln Lore is a most worthy project and will be of immense benefit to everybody who is interested in this subject.

I think your Fayette County listing is complete. I do not believe that it is worthwhile to include the Widow Parker home. However, you might consider the following: As you will recall, after St. Paul Catholic Church was built on West Short Street, the church also acquired as a residence for the priest the Mary Todd birthplace next door. For a good many years Father Barry, undoubtedly the most outstanding of all the Catholic priests Lexington ever had, lived here until the old house was torn down and the present one erected on the birthplace site. However, the brick in the old Todd home, together with much of the woodwork and several mantelpieces - and perhaps the stairway - were used to build the Superintendent's lodge at the entrance to Calvary Catholic Cemetery on West Main Street, just opposite the Lexington Cemetery.

I think this is not generally known and it may not be of sufficient importance to be included in your list.

All of the family send you their best regards.

Sincerely,



WHT:AMK

To renew home of Mary Lincoln

BY ARLO T. WAGNER

Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON: A plan to purchase and restore the Mary Todd Lincoln home in

Lexington has been worked out with federal authorities, fulfilling the aspirations of Feulah Nunn, the Kentucky governor's wife.

State Parks Commissioner Jim Host is negotiating details now for an application to the Housing and Urban Development Department which could provide money.

TENTATIVE agreement was reached with federal authorities during Gov. Louie B. Nunn's visit here a week ago.

Under the Historic Preservation Act, the block encompassing Mary Todd's home, now used as a warehouse, would be included in a Lexington urban renewal tract.

HUD COULD provide 75 per cent of the money to buy the house and the block and pay up to \$90,000 for restoration, said Host.

"It won't cost the city anything," said Host, because Kentucky and \$35,000 donations collected

by Mrs. Nunn would provide Lexington's share.

NUNN, HOST and Assistant Parks Commissioner Shirley W. Palmer-Ball met with HUD Undersecretary Norman Watson to determine if the project was covered by the preservation law.

"They reacted favorably," said Host. "Any time you get the governor along, it just goes so much better. Now we have to put it in writing."

"THIS IS a great accomplishment," said Joe DeWeese, liaison here for Gov. Nunn. "The two previous Democratic administrations promised to restore the Mary Todd Lincoln home but never did."

"The governor said his wife would know the good news as soon as he entered the door at home because of the expression on his face."



Lincoln, his wife and children once returned to Kentucky and lived in his wife's family home in Lexington, at right. Gov. Louie Nunn's wife has been promised federal help to restore the home.

AP Wirephoto

Ruling makes possible Todd home restoration

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Court of Appeals apparently cleared the way yesterday to proceed with restoring the Mary Todd Lincoln home in Lexington and operating it as a shrine.

The high court affirmed a Fayette Circuit Court ruling that held the state could condemn the property on the basis of its value alone and did not have to consider it along with the value of some adjacent property.

The building on East Main Street was the girlhood home of President Abraham Lincoln's wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Coke and their daughter, Mrs. Frederick Kieckhefer, who own the old Todd property, had contended that its value should be considered along with the adjoining property. That adjoining property is owned by a hardware company in which Mrs. Kieckhefer's husband is the principal owner; the hardware firm has been leasing the Todd property for storage and to load trucks.

Mrs. Louie B. Nunn led the move to acquire the property and make it a state shrine while her Republican husband was governor. She raised \$145,000 in contributions from across Kentucky for the project.

She said yesterday that the money has been in a bank since the property owners went to court to fight the condemnation order.

Mrs. Nunn said a private group, the Kentucky Mansion Preservation Foundation, Inc., will use the money to restore the home at its present site as soon as the state gives it permission. She said the sale price of the home, as a result of the condemnation process, was \$26,300, its appraised value.

State Parks Commissioner Ewart Johnson said yesterday he felt the project could be good for Lexington. Saying it cost \$1 million to restore White Hall near Richmond during the Nunn administration, Johnson said the state "doesn't have the money" to restore or operate the Todd home but would help the private group any other way it could.

In the litigation on the case, Fayette Circuit Court rejected the contention by the Cokes that the Todd property and hardware firm property should be considered together in determining the value of the home. The high court agreed with the lower court, saying there was no community of ownership since the Cokes merely collected rent on the property.

The circuit and appellate courts also rejected a contention that the state had not made a good faith effort to buy the property.

Efforts to buy the property were made "over a substantial period of time." The state made a legitimate offer and "the landowners flatly rejected it," the high court noted.

"The evidence further showed," the court added, "that the landowners had stated on several occasions that they would sell the house alone but would never sell the lot on which the house stood."

Finally, the court rejected a contention that the state did not have the right to condemn the property because it was to be used by a private, nonprofit organization.

The court said there was no evidence that the property would not continue to be owned by the state and be used as a state park or shrine although the foundation might have some management function over it.

Ky. decision

Todd home

Oct 2, 1961

to the ground
R. G. ...
H. J. ...
C. G. ...



Lincoln Lore

September, 1977

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor. Published each month by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1675

TWO NEW LINCOLN SITES . . . MAYBE

America's continuing interest in Abraham Lincoln is a phenomenon most evident on a broadly popular level. There may well be less research in progress on Lincoln manuscripts and books than there was two or three decades ago. Real action is taking place, however, where masses of Americans look increasingly for their contacts with history, at historical sites. The National Park Service initiated a long-range program to improve the Lincoln home site in Springfield, Illinois, some years back. There is a large project under way to upgrade the interpretative material at other Lincoln sites in

Illinois as well. A new site in Kentucky was dedicated just this year, and people in Vermont, of all places, are at work to save another Lincoln-related historical site.

The newest addition is the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington, Kentucky, dedicated on June ninth of this year. Like all such events, this dedication was the result of considerable struggle over a substantial period in the past. More than seven years ago, Mrs. Louis B. Nunn, wife of the governor of Kentucky at that time, visited the historic brick house in which Mary Todd spent her girlhood years. The wives of the



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 1. The Mary Todd Lincoln house on Main Street in Lexington, Kentucky.



FIGURE 2. Much of the Todd home is restored to the period 1832 - 1849, the time of Robert Smith Todd's residence there. This parlor contains the painted portrait of Robert Smith Todd. The couches are copies of furniture used by Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln in the White House.

*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

governors of Indiana and Illinois were coming for a visit and had expressed an interest in seeing the house. Mrs. Nunn was shocked to find that the Todd home was a tumbledown warehouse for plumbing supplies.

The house had survived many close calls in the past. As early as 1921, civic and historical groups in Lexington showed interest in using the house for a museum. After a year's efforts, however, the only accomplishment was the placement of a tablet on the outside of the building describing its history. Occasional newspaper articles on the sad plight of the house sparked little interest. A proposal to use it for commercial pur-

poses in 1932 did prompt a protest from a black church across the street. Louis A. Warren, the first editor of *Lincoln Lore*, made several attempts in the 1940s to interest Lexington citizens in converting the home into an historic site, but in 1946, the house was nearly razed to make room for a gas station.

The home was a victim of forces of which we have only recently become aware. Before the era of woman's liberation, it was not easy to arouse enthusiasm for a *girlhood* home. Indeed, the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation touts the home as "the first shrine to honor an American First Lady." C. Frank Dunn, a local Lexington historian who was

FIGURE 3. The master bedroom in the Todd house is furnished with pieces made in Winchester, Kentucky, in the early part of the nineteenth century. Knowledge of the type of carpet used in the room came from the 1849 inventory of the Robert Smith Todd estate.



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

interested in saving the house in 1949, wrote Louis Warren to tell him that it would never work to save the home "to glorify womanhood." It could only succeed as an essentially Lincoln-related memorial.

Dunn pointed to other problems. He did not feel that any prominent woman in Lexington would lead a campaign to save the Todd house. For one thing, the home was a notorious house of ill fame in some of the years after it passed out of Todd family hands. For another, most of the leaders of Lexington society were Confederate descendants. Despite the fact that the state did not secede, Lincoln's policies on race drove Kentucky sentiment into the camp of the Solid South after the war was over, and there that sentiment remained as late as 1949. A further problem was the extremely poor condition of the house. At that time, it seemed "utterly impossible to restore the place."

The Todd home went through the various stages of decay that properties on the slide go through. The original family left, and the occupants became people without a permanent home. From a rooming house, it became a place where people went just for an evening. From a saloon, it became a place occupied more by objects than people, a used-furniture store. At last, it became a place occupied only by objects, a warehouse.

Mrs. Nunn organized the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation in 1969 to renovate the Executive Mansion in Frankfort. The organization restored White Hall, the home of Lincoln's minister to Russia, antislavery maverick Cassius M. Clay. The Foundation also took an interest in the Todd home, but the conversion of that home to a public historic site would not be accomplished without a final struggle.

The Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs raised \$26,500, the appraised value of the house. Governor Nunn provided \$100,000 in state money from a contingency fund. The Department of Housing and Urban Development included the block on which the Todd home was situated in a Lexington urban renewal tract. In 1971, the Commonwealth of Kentucky bought the tract, but a long legal battle ensued. The owners contested the state's ability to condemn the property on the basis of the value of that piece of property alone without considering its value in conjunction with surrounding properties. In 1973, the Kentucky Court of Appeals upheld a Fayette Circuit Court ruling that the state could condemn the property without considering the value of the adjacent property.

Actual restoration of the property could not begin until 1976. Governor Julian Carroll's administration provided \$465,000 to restore the house and purchase furnishings. The governor and his wife also made unused Executive Mansion furniture available for use in the Todd home. The feat was at last accomplished.

The house was built in the first decade of the nineteenth century. Robert Smith Todd purchased the house in 1832, when his daughter Mary was already fourteen years old. She lived in the home until she left for Springfield in 1839; her father lived there until his death in 1849. While he lived in the house, Robert Todd was clerk of the Kentucky House of Representatives, was elected to the Kentucky Senate, and was president of the Lexington branch of the Bank of Kentucky. The family gained substantial income from a grocery establishment.

Of course, the original furnishings of the Todd home have not survived. When Robert Todd died in 1849, his estate was offered for sale and was scattered far and wide. The inventory of the estate made for that sale survives, however, and from that inventory it was possible to make an educated guess at the furnishings of the house. The twenty-room brick house contains a rare portrait of Robert Todd and draperies copied from a surviving swatch from the original parlor. The home is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday.

The name of Robert Todd figures prominently in the struggle which is presently going on to save Hildene, a mansion in Manchester, Vermont. It was the home of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to live to maturity. Robert first visited Manchester on a vacation to escape the heat of a Washington summer during the Civil War. He visited the area repeatedly after the war and was especially fond of the summer home his law partner, Edward Swift Isham, kept in the area. In 1902, now wealthy and successful, Robert Todd Lincoln purchased several hundred acres in Manchester. In 1904, Hildene was built and remained in the family's hands until the death of Robert's granddaughter, Mary Lincoln Beckwith, in 1975. Her will left the 412-acre estate to the Christian Science Church with the wish that it be preserved as a memorial to her grandparents. However, the will contains an escape clause allowing the church to

sell the estate if it is "impractical" to run the estate as an historical memorial.

The position of the Christian Science Church is simple. They consider themselves, according to Mr. Carl B. Rechner, Real Estate Consultant at the Christian Science Center in Boston, a "small but international church." They are not equipped to run historical memorials, and that is an enterprise which does not particularly fit their mainly religious objectives. They wish to follow the spirit of the will and will sell the property to any group which will operate the property as a memorial to the Lincolns. However, the property was appraised at \$612,000, and no group which wishes to operate the home as an historic property has that kind of money. Mr. Rechner said that the church offered to sell for \$400,000 and to "make terms" that would ease even that burden, but their offer has not been taken. They have been offered, \$200,000, which they refused. They feel that, if no group prepared to manage the property as a memorial offers to buy it for a reasonable price, that they are then free to sell to any other buyer for the next best use.

The Friends of Hildene, Inc., a group of over one hundred Manchester citizens anxious to save the mansion for historical purposes, is long on sentiment for the project and, understandably, short on funds. One major gift, says FOH president Robert Schmid, allowed them to make the \$200,000 offer. Since negotiations to close the gap between that and the church's figure have broken down, that offer has been withdrawn. The Friends of Hildene think that they have an excellent chance to save the estate through the courts. "News from the Friends of Hildene," a bulletin published by the organization, stated their case this way in April:

The FOH stand, buttressed by legal precedent and authority, is that the Church has not shown — and has made no good faith effort to establish — that to run Hildene as directed in the Will would be "impractical." Therefore,



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. Robert Todd Lincoln's portrait in the dining room of Hildene.

having failed to establish "impracticality," the Church is not free to sell the estate except to a buyer who will honor Miss Beckwith's memorial concept. In FOH's view "impracticality" *might* have been argued if the Beckwith Will had left no money to the Church as operating capital for the maintenance of a Hildene memorial. But the Will provides a specific fund of \$425,000. as endowment for this memorial purpose as well as "all the rest, residue, and remainder" of the estate after taxes and expenses have been paid. Thus, with . . . working capital and with full title to the land and buildings, . . . the Church must present convincing evidence — which has not been forthcoming — that it is "impractical" to maintain Hildene as a memorial.

The \$425,000 endowment was a fund set aside in Miss Beckwith's will for her servants. The servants are all deceased now, and in that contingency the money and the "rest and residue" of the estate after settlement were to go to the operation of the memorial. Mr. Schmid estimates the amount available for this purpose now at \$780,000 in cash, stocks, and bonds. A court fight is in the offing, the Church petitioning the courts for permission to sell Hildene on the open market and the Friends of Hildene "determined to prevent, by all legal means, the diversion of these resources from their intended purpose."

Hildene has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by the Vermont State Division for Historic Preservation, which described it as a "magnificent example of Georgian revival architecture." Miss Kathryn Welch, planning officer for the Boston regional office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation noted:

The estate contains a multiplicity of artifacts, memorabilia, and archival materials, which would be of historical significance. Resources such as the papers and correspondence of Robert Todd Lincoln and the Lincoln-Beckwith families as well as the collection of artifacts should be evaluated for their content and significance relative to U.S. history, the history of the Lincoln-Beckwith family, and the more local history of the estate and the town of Manchester.

The home is in good physical condition, and Mr. Schmid says that the furnishings in the home are mostly the ones Robert Todd Lincoln acquired for it. Miss Beckwith, known locally as "Peg," lived in the house as it had been set up by her grand-

father. She bought very few furnishings herself. Some of the furnishings, however, go to Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, Miss Beckwith's brother, and he is currently distributing some of the items. Friends of Hildene have contacted him, however, and he has apparently agreed to leave certain very important pieces, like the grandfather clock, in the home.

When I asked Mr. Rechner for a description of the Church's position, he gave me in essence the position I described as the Church's above. He did not mention the endowment fund on which the Friends of Hildene place so much emphasis. Wanting to clarify the matter, I called the Church's associate counsel, Mr. Philip Hunt. He expressed some reluctance to discuss a matter of litigation at first, but he did consent to discuss the will a bit. The "so-called endowment" fund is "in there," he said, as a trust which was never set up because all the potential beneficiaries were deceased before they could benefit from it. Mr. Hunt's position is that, "endowment" fund or no, the whole question hinges on "the degree of discretion" Miss Beckwith desired the directors of the Church to have. The courts, he said, will look at the critical words in the will, which state that in the event the directors should determine the historical memorial purpose impractical, they could use the property to further the ends of religion as taught by Mary Baker Eddy. The will states that it is Miss Beckwith's "desire," but she does "not direct" that it be used for the historical purpose. She could have directed them to do so and left the property to someone else in the event that they did not wish to do so. The courts will have to interpret whether it is entirely up to the directors of the Church to decide the question of practicality. In the meantime, Lincoln enthusiasts will have to wait and watch anxiously or hope that some benefactor can close the gap between the Church's price for the property and the funds raised by the Friends of Hildene.

Editor's Note: Readers of the credits for photographs in recent issues will have noted the appearance of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. This is the new name for the Lincoln National Life Foundation. A future issue will deal with the renaming of the Foundation in honor of its first director and with the move of the facility to brand new quarters.

M. E. N., Jr.



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 5. Main entrance of Hildene.



MARY TODD

Portrait painted from her own description, when about the age of twenty years old by Kneass (Who a niece of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and a daughter of the Confederate General, Ben. Hardee Wiley).

Mary Todd Lincoln House
Lexington, Kentucky
Restored 1976-1977



*Mary Todd Lincoln House Dedication
Lexington, Kentucky
June 9, 1977*



MARY TODD LINCOLN HOUSE

CIRCA 1803-1806

PURCHASED 1971

RESTORED 1976-1977 FOR THE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

JULIAN M. CARROLL, GOVERNOR

BY THE KENTUCKY MANSIONS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

MRS. LOUIE B. NUNN, CHAIRMAN



*Mary Todd Lincoln House Dedication
Lexington Center, Lexington, Kentucky
June 9, 1977*

Introductions	Mrs. Louie B. Nunn
Words of Welcome	Mr. Robert M. Brewer Past President, Lexington Chamber of Commerce
Honored Guest	Mr. Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith
Invocation	The Reverend Glynn Burke Central Christian Church

LUNCHEON

Remarks	Mr. Bruce Montgomery Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Parks
Remarks	The Honorable Louie B. Nunn Former Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
Dedication Speech	The Honorable Julian M. Carroll Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
Unveiling of Plaques	The Honorable Louie B. Nunn Governor Julian M. Carroll

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Mrs. John P. Barrow, Jr., Lexington
Mrs. George Bickel, Louisville
Mr. Samuel Cassidy, Lexington
Mr. Albert Christian, Louisville
Mr. W. Howard Clay, Louisville
Mrs. William Preston Cox, Lexington
Mrs. Dennis Cravens, Lexington
Mrs. Lawrence Crump, Lexington
Mr. Richard DeCamp, Lexington
Miss Laura Dickerson, Williamstown
Mr. John T. Diederich, Ashland (Deceased)
Mrs. Adron Doran, Lexington
Mr. Anthony Eardley, Lexington
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Mr. Walter Ferguson, Lexington
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Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.

511 West Short Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

HISTORIC RESTORATION STANDS NEAR ULTRA MODERN LEXINGTON CENTER

by
Betty Ellison

The Mary Todd Lincoln House is part of a historic restoration in downtown Lexington that stands near the modern, new Lexington Center Complex.

Parker Place and Todd Square on West Short Street are also included in this historic restoration. Visitors to the Mary Todd Lincoln House can find parking in Todd Square, purchase their combination ticket for the two houses there, and begin their tour with Parker Place, after the dedication on June 9, 1977.

This imposing Italianate structure, built in the 1860's by John McMurtry - a student of the famed Kentucky architect Gideon Shryock, is dominated by a four-story tower. The back part of Parker Place is thought to be an original portion of the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Porter Parker, the maternal grandmother of Mary Todd Lincoln, who was born in the house that once stood next door.

Parker Place is now a museum and gallery of fine antique furnishings and paintings, and memorabilia of many periods. Much of this is offered for sale, and the proceeds from these sales support Parker Place, Todd Square, and the Mary Todd Lincoln House, making their operation possible.

Restoring Mary Todd Lincoln House • Parker Place • Todd Square

Plans call for Todd Square to be developed into a quality inner-city shopping area with brick walks, gas lights, teahouse, and greenery. Construction on this portion of the project is expected to begin this year.

Parker Place will also serve as an orientation center for the Mary Todd Lincoln House before visitors proceed there by way of Short, Felix, and West Main Streets.

Combination tickets for Parker Place and the Mary Todd Lincoln House are \$3.00 for adults, and \$1.00 for children, ages six to twelve years. Children under six are admitted free, but must be accompanied by adults. Group rates are available.

The Mary Todd Lincoln House, Parker Place, and Todd Square are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Summer hours will be extended for tours by appointments.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 606-233-9999, or by writing Mrs. Mary O'Hara, Parker Place, 511 West Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky, 40508.



THE CHILDREN'S ROOM at the Mary Todd Lincoln House, Lexington, Kentucky, is furnished of the period 1832-1849 when Robert Todd's large family lived there. At the right of the fireplace is a bonnet chest. The trundle bed was used to accomodate the many young Todd children. The 20-room brick home on West Main Street has been restored to that period by the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, and is now open for visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday. Special tours during the summer months can be arranged by appointment, by calling 606-233-9999.

MTL House 6-9-77

Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.

511 West Short Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

MARY TODD LINCOLN - A PROFILE

by
Betty Ellison

Mary Todd was born on December 13, 1818, into an affluent Lexington, Kentucky family that would become even more prominent as the years passed. She was an intelligent, tenderhearted, feminine, precocious, coquettish, and fun-loving child who expected a happy normal childhood.

The loss of her mother at the age of six would have a pronounced effect on her then and later. She felt cheated of her parent and the ensuing battle between the families over the young children did nothing to add to the security they needed. The die was cast between her maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Porter Parker, and her father, Robert S. Todd, over his second marriage to Elizabeth (Betsy) Humphreys. When the stepmother attempted to discipline, the grandmother counteracted with too much sympathy and endearments.

Two years after her mother died, Mary entered the academy of Dr. John Ward, a strict Episcopal minister-educator, who was years ahead of his time in educational advancements. The school of Dr. Ward, who was rector of Christ Church, was located on the southwest corner of Market and Second streets, and was coeducational, for around 100 boys and girls from Lexington's best families. Classes started promptly at 5 a.m., and Dr. Ward's strict rules began the development of this most

intelligent young girl. A cousin said of Mary in these years, "She was far advanced over girls of her age in education, and had a retentive memory that enabled her to grasp and thoroughly understand the lessons she was required to learn."

Mary Todd walked to school from her Short Street home, and later from the larger brick house on Lexington's West Main Street.

As the gulf continued to widen with his first wife's family, and as the children increased in his second family, Robert Todd purchased a larger home, further from Grandmother Parker. In 1832, he moved his family into what has been described as "A double brick house that had a formal garden with a stream (Town Branch of Elkhorn Creek), a conservatory to the left of the house was reached by a shady gravel walk, and other dependencies included a coachhouse, stable, and servants' quarters."

Mary probably received little attention from anyone but her grandmother and her nurse, Sally, considering all the general bustle in the busy household, with so much entertaining, almost constant visitors, countless young children afoot, and numerous servants to supervise.

Governors, jurists, congressmen, diplomats, scholars, soldiers, and other distinguished visitors in the Todd home left their mark on the impressionable little girl, and Robert Todd allowed his daughter to converse with them. These men were both amused and impressed with the witty and accurate comments of the precocious young girl.

When Mary was about 13, she rode her new pony out Richmond Road to Ashland to obtain Henry Clay's approval of the animal. When informed by the butler that Mr. Clay was entertaining guests, Mary re-

plied, "You go right back and tell him that Mary Todd would like him to step out here for a moment."

Clay came out with his guests, praised her pony, and invited the young girl inside for dinner. During the ensuing political conversation, Mary interrupted to say, "Mr. Clay, my father says you will be the next president. I wish I could go to Washington and live in the White House." Clay promised her a special visit to the White House, should he ever attain the office, and she accepted, saying, "If you were not already married, I would wait for you."

The next step in Mary Todd's path to being the wife of a president and living in the White House came in 1833, when she became a boarder at the most fashionable finishing school in Lexington, operated by Madame Victorie Charlotte Le Clere Mentelle. Both Mme. Mentelle and her husband, Augustus Waldemare Mentelle, were born in Paris - she the only daughter of a physician who raised her roughly as he would a son, and he the son of a historiographer to the King of France. The Mentelles fled France during the revolution, came to America in 1793, arrived in Washington in Mason County in 1795, and settled in Lexington in 1798, teaching French and dancing.

Later they opened their own school in a lovely old home on Richmond Road, across from Mr. Clay's Ashland. Here for four years, Mary Todd became fluent in French, adept at dancing, and built a solid English education. There were afternoon walks when classes were over, winter evenings listening to M. Mentelle play the violin, and she read current French novels under the trees in the spring. Mme. Mentelle saw that her students enjoyed the pleasures of growing she had missed as a girl.

Weekends Mary spent with her family, and some summers were spent

at Crab Orchard Springs, a spa south of Lexington frequented by wealthy residents of the state.

In 1837, Mary visited in Springfield, Illinois, with her oldest sister, Elizabeth, who had married Ninian Edwards, son of an early governor of Illinois. The Edwards had met when he was a student at Transylvania in Lexington, and were married in the Todd home. After three months, she returned to Lexington for two more years of schooling at Dr. Ward's. This gave Mary Todd 13 years of formal education when she finished in 1839. Few men then ever received as much. She was indeed prepared to occupy the White House, and to intellectually assist her future husband.

In the summer of 1839, she returned to Springfield to make her home with the Edwards, and met Abraham Lincoln at a cotillion there. It was as though they had both been waiting for each other. They were excited and set about discovering each other in the first budding bloom of love.

One biographer related these early meetings of Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln. "What amazed Lincoln most was this young woman's apt knowledge of contemporary politics, particularly her first-hand information concerning slavery. Not only was she a born politician, but she had been raised in a home where politics were freely discussed. In addition, she had met and talked with all the chief Whigs in Kentucky, her family's home being one of their favorite meeting places.

"Now at last Mary Todd had somebody to listen to her own impassioned views on the plight of the American Negro - someone to share her horror of the whipping post in the jail that stood within hearing of her Grandmother Parker's home. She was drawn to this tall, ungainly

man who had declared in the legislature in Vandalia that 'slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy'; what's more, she even knew Henry Clay, whom Lincoln had once called his ideal of a statesman."

The Edwards opposed this growing relationship between Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln. The young lawyer had doubts he could provide for his wife in the manner to which she was accustomed, and they parted. Just as in story books, their love prevailed, and they were married by an Episcopal minister in the Edwards' home on Friday, November 4, 1842.

Mary Todd Lincoln was indeed lovely in a white embroidered gown with a low, round neck and short sleeves, wide skirt, and a lace head-piece. She gazed lovingly at Abraham as he placed on her left hand a simple gold band inscribed, "Love is eternal."

The Lincolns began their life in the Globe Tavern, where she helped him polish his manners, attain a sense of ease in meeting people, and read numerous periodicals, newspapers, and magazines for him.

In 1843, the Lincolns' first son, Robert Todd, was born, and her father Robert Todd came for a visit to see his namesake. Mr. Todd was impressed by his new son-in-law, assigned him claims against some Illinois merchants to collect, gave Mary 80 acres of land near Springfield, and made them a cash advance of \$125.00 per year until Lincoln's law practice was well established.

A year later they purchased their own home in Springfield. Still, Mary Todd Lincoln did her own housework, made their own clothes, and managed to save out of her household allowance enough to purchase an occasional rug or item of furniture.

Lincoln first ran for congress in 1843, and was defeated. In 1844 he was again defeated in his support of Henry Clay for president. However, his law practice flourished. In 1846, the Lincolns became the

parents of another son, Edward Baker, and the following year Lincoln was elected to congress.

Now, the Lincolns could return triumphantly to Lexington. They were on their way to Washington, D.C., this time as a congressman, but the next timethere was still the presidency.

It was in the fall of 1847, when the Lincoln arrived in Lexington for a visit with the Todds and the Parkers. The visitors divided their time between the two families. From Grandmother Parker's side porch, Lincoln could see the infamous slave jail, operated by W. S. Pullum, and hear the tormented, piercing cries from the pens, whose dirt floors were covered with vermin-infested straw.

Mary Todd Lincoln must have been pleased to introduce her husband to Henry Clay during a visit to Ashland. This was the man she had so much admired as a child, and the statesman Lincoln had held in high regard. Clay gave the Lincolns a mahogany chest containing a set of cutlery with a bas-relief of himself engraved into each ivory handle. The Lincolns could not stay for the winter holidays because he was due in Washington to be sworn in as a congressman from Illinois.

The family from Illinois first stopped at Brown's Hotel in Washington, but soon found other quarters at Mrs. Ann G. Spriggs' boarding house. A winter spent at the boarding house with two small boys was showing its toll on their mother, so Abraham Lincoln suggested they make a visit to Lexington in the early spring of 1848.

Letters passing between the husband and wife show that they missed each other a great deal, but the boys were delighting in their Kentucky experiences and their mother was in good health. The visit extended through the summer, part of which was spent at the Todd summer house, Buena Vista in Franklin County. It was October before the visit

was over, and Mary Todd Lincoln and sons joined their husband and father in Chicago to go home to Springfield.

Both the Lincolns had campaigned for Zachary Taylor for president, and both were disappointed when Lincoln was not offered a high post in the new administration. He was later offered the governorship of the Oregon Territory, but Mary Todd Lincoln was adamant that he not accept the post.

Robert S. Todd was only one of hundreds of people to die in the Lexington cholera epidemic in July of 1849. As he grew worse, Todd made out his will, but it was witnessed by only one person, and this later gave one of his sons, George Rogers Clark Todd, a reason to challenge the validity of the document. So, Betsy Todd, still left with six young children to raise, was forced to convert all of her late husband's holdings into cash to settle the estate.

Again the Lincolns journeyed from Springfield to Lexington for him to act as legal counsel for the heirs. Much of their time was spent at Buena Vista, traveling back and forth to Lexington on the steam cars. Finally, in November, the Lincolns were able to return home, stunned by both the division of the Todd family and the continuing horrors of slavery.

After a long illness of nearly two months, the Lincolns' second son, Eddie, died on February 1, 1850. It was only a month earlier that Mary Todd Lincoln had lost her champion over the years in the death of Grandmother Parker in January of 1850.

The continuing affairs of Robert S. Todd's estate and the settlement of Grandmother Parker's estate brought the Lincolns back to Lexington again in 1850. He returned to Springfield, while his wife and son remained in Lexington for an extended visit.

On December 21, 1850, the Lincolns became the parents of a third son, William Wallace, named for Mrs. Lincoln's brother-in-law. Then on April 4, 1853, the fourth and last son, Thomas Lincoln, was born, and affectionately nicknamed "Tad" by his father.

In 1853, more court action involving the Todds in Lexington and the Lincolns in Springfield came about as an attempt to discredit Mary Todd Lincoln's husband politically, but was later dismissed.

The Lincoln-Stephen A. Douglas debates began, much to Mary Todd Lincoln's urgings. "Mr. Douglas is a very little, little giant by the side of my tall Kentuckian, and intellectually my husband towers above Douglas just as he does physically," Mary Todd Lincoln said of her one-time suitor.

In 1858, the two men were pitted against each other in the race for the Illinois seat in the U.S. Senate. While Lincoln lost the election, the people did not forget him. Neither did Mary Todd Lincoln forget that her family friends from Kentucky, Senator John Jay Crittenden, Vice-President John C. Breckinridge, and James B. Clay, son of her old friend Henry Clay, wrote letters in support of Douglas in the race.

She remained his staunchest supporter in his quest for the Republican nomination in 1860. When he received the news in Springfield that he had been nominated, his reply was, "My friends, I am glad to receive your congratulations, and as there is a little woman on Eighth Street who will be glad to hear the news, you must excuse me until I inform her."

Of course, Abraham Lincoln was elected the United States' 16th president. But, in his wife's home of Fayette County, there were only three votes cast for him, as the election story goes.

Mary Todd Lincoln was well prepared to occupy the White House. However, she alone of all America's first ladies entered the White House under grave hostility. The Washington, D.C. establishment was protective of the political and social power they had wielded for so many years, but they were smart enough to know that this small woman from Kentucky was a force to be reckoned with. The nation was bitterly divided over the issue of slavery, and in the secession of the South there was a closing of loyalties. Some ardent Unionists even suspected publicly that Mrs. Lincoln was sympathetic to the Confederates because of her family. Confederates could not forgive her, as one of their own, for supporting the Union. She was ignored by most of the prominent Washington ladies upon her arrival there.

Looking at his wife at one of her stunning White House receptions, Abraham Lincoln remarked to a guest, "My wife is as handsome as when she was a girl, and I, a poor nobody then, fell in love with her, and what is more, I have never fallen out."

The White House years were difficult ones for the Lincolns, for he was trying to bind together a nation's wounds over the bitter Civil War, and she was trying to make the executive mansion into a proper president's home, and give her husband all her support. She entertained well, and this did nothing to endear her to the Washington ladies who had once snubbed her.

When they traveled, the Lincolns kept in close touch, usually by telegram, with each other.

During their first term in the White House, tragedy struck again. On February 20, 1861, Willie, their third son, was lost to typhoid fever. Both the President and Mrs. Lincoln were consumed with grief, but their

concern was for each other as well as their loss. Mary Todd Lincoln confided to her half-sister, Emilie Todd Helm, "If I had not felt the sour of necessity urging me to cheer Mr. Lincoln whose grief was as great as my own, I could never have smiled again."

It was also during these White House years that Mrs. Lincoln was to hear of her brothers being killed in the Civil War, and to see the terrible toll it was taking on her husband.

However, Abraham Lincoln was re-elected president in 1864, and could see an end to the war that had divided his beloved nation. Both the Lincolns seemed to feel that the cloud was receding. On that fateful day, April 14, 1865, the Lincolns were taking a drive, and discussing trips to California, Europe, and Jerusalem they planned to make after leaving the White House.

As the world knows, Abraham Lincoln died on the morning of April 15, 1865, the victim of an assassin's bullet. Mary Todd Lincoln lived 17 more years, but her life stopped on that early morning in April.

Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.

511 West Short Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

1849 ESTATE SALE INVENTORY OF ROBERT SMITH TODD

In 1849, Robert Smith Todd's estate was offered for sale to settle the claims of two sets of children.

Below is a copy of that sale inventory which was such an assistance in furnishing the newly restored Mary Todd Lincoln House as it was from 1832 to 1849.

Inventory of R. S. Todd, deceased, taken in his house in the city of Lexington, Ky.

No. 1	One dozen Silver Forks and Soup Spoons	\$ 35
2	One Secretary & Book Case	20
3	One Mahogany Sofa	10
4	One Dozen Fancy Chairs (13) & Rocking Chair	24
5	One Clock	15
6	One Card Table	2.50
7	Two Quantithes	3
8	Six Paintings	6
9	One carpet in Sitting Room & Rug	12.50
10	Ten Setts venetian window blinds	10
11	Four Curtain Rods & Curtains	10
12	One dinner Set Blue China Complete	10
13	One Set White & Green Dinner & Breakfast	35
14	One extension Table	15
15	One Dinner Table	5
16	One Oil Cloth Carpet in Dining Room	12
17	Two Dozen Damask Napkins	2
18	Eight Glass Urns, Two same (10 in all)	2
19	Silver Candlestick Snuffer	1
20	One Passage Oil Cloth Carpet	4
21	One Hat Rack	5
22	One Passage Lamp	2
23	One Thermometer & Barometer (in One)	15
24	One Pair Swans (Ea. Ten Dollars)	20
25	One Dozen Mahogany Chairs (Ea. \$3)	36
26	One Sofa	30
27	Two Foot Stools	1

No. 28	Two stools Ea. 2.50	\$ 5
29	One Pier Table	15
30	One Rocking Chair (Mahogany)	5
31	One half dozen Mahogany chairs Ea. \$2	12
32	One center table	8
33	One Side Board	15
34	One astrol lamp	1.50
35	Four rods with two white & four red curtains Ea. \$5	20
36	illegible	10
37	Two pan snuffers & Trays	2
38	Two (2) white vases with shades Ea. \$3.00	6
39	Two Pokers and a Pair Shovel & Tongs & one shovel	3
40	One pair fine decanters & one pitcher	7.50
41	One old pair decanters	1
42	One castor set	5
43	One glass bowl & six preserve dishes	8
44	Forty one wine & jelly glasses	5
45	Three salt cellars	1
46	Four fancy glass plates	2
47	illegible	2
48	One Brussels Carpet in parlor & show case	50
49	One rug in parlor	5
50	One carpet East front bedroom	6
51	One dressing bureau in ditto	25
52	One bedstead in ditto	15
53	One wash stand, bowl, pitcher & soap holder in ditto	10
54	One hair mattress, feather bed & furniture in ditto	40
55	One wardrobe in north front bedroom	25
56	One dressing burear in ditto	15
57	One wash stand, bowl, pitcher, tub & soap holder, ditto	10
58	One bed stead in ditto	5
59	One spring mattress & furniture in ditto	20
60	one bedroom arm chair in ditto	3
61	One Brussels Carpet in ditto	20
62	One fire screen	.50
63	One French Bed stead in west rear bedroom	15
64	illegible	2
65	One hair mattress & furniture	20
66	One stove in west rear bedroom	3
67	one wash stand & bowl in ditto	1
68	One bath tub in back room	5
69	Two small stoves in ditto	5
70	One bed & bed stead in ditto	10
71	One bed stead in south rear bedroom	10
72	Bed & Furniture in ditto	14
73	One mattress & pillow in ditto	6
74	One wash stand and furniture in ditto	2
75	One carpet	4
76	One Bureau & Book case	6
77	One rocking chair	.75
78	Fifty-one volumes of (illegible)	25
79	Gibbons Rome in 8 volumes	4
80	Twenty-seven volumes miscellaneous works	6.75
81	One hundred & forty six volumes miscellaneous books	20

No. 82	Four tables in passage	\$ 4
83	Four paintings in passage & frames	1.25
84	illegible	2
85	one case drawers	1
86	One bed stead	3
87	Two old fire screens	.25
88	Twelve old chairs, three more (15 in all)	2
89	One Hundred twenty six volumes in sitting room	25.20
90	Sixty seven Literary reviews	6
91	One fly-brush	1
92	illegible	4
93	Kitchen cupboard, two tables & furniture	10
94	One old stove, $\frac{1}{2}$ Bl. Lime & Woodsaw	1
95	One garden plough & shovel	3.50
96	Flower pots in green house	15
97	Fourteen stands of flowers	5
98	Four (illegible) & cutting box in stable	2
99	One carriage in same	200
100	One chicken coop & 2 Iron bound casks	3
		<hr/> \$1200.20

Lexington Sept. 12, 1849

I do certify that the foregoing inventory contains all the personal estate of R. S. Todd, Deceased, which hath come to my hand.

Oct. 8, 1849

E. L. Todd
adm.

Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.

511 West Short Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

TODDS NOT TOLERANT OF TYRANNY IN EUROPE OR AMERICA

by
Betty Ellison

At least since the 17th century, the Todd family had been crusading for human rights, and these antecedents provided a fitting background for the woman destined to be the wife of President Abraham Lincoln, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, that declared free forever over three million slaves in America.

In 1679, Robert Todd of Fenwick, and James Todd of Dunbar, Scotland, were among 200 Scots drowned off Orkney while being transported to America. They were among the Covenanters captured at Bothwell, and were sentenced to leave the country.

In that same year, John Todd fled from the persecutions in Scotland to the north of Ireland. Family records refer to him as a "Scottish Laird" and "the emigrant". Two of his grandsons, Andrew and Robert Todd came with their families from Ireland to America in 1737.

Through this issue of this Robert Todd came the branches of the family that would be united again in the union of Eliza Ann Parker and Robert Smith Todd, parents of Mary Todd Lincoln.

A daughter of Robert Todd, the emigrant, named Elizabeth, married Robert Parker. Their daughter Elizabeth McDowell, married General An-

drew Porter, and subsequently, their daughter, Elizabeth Rittenhouse Porter, married Robert Parker in 1790, and the same year settled in Lexington, Kentucky. She became the maternal grandmother who played such an important part in Mary Todd's young life.

David Todd, the second son of Robert Todd the emigrant, was brought by his father from Ireland to Pennsylvania, where he later married the Quakeress Hannah Allen. He came to Kentucky in 1783, dying two years later. He was preceeded here by three of his sons, Levi, Robert, and John. John Todd had a brilliant career in the military as an aide to General Andrew Lewis at the Battle of Point Pleasant and succeeded George Rogers Clark as commander of Kaskaskia. In civil affairs, her was one of the first two brugesses sent by Kentucky county to the Virginia General Assembly. He fell in the Battle of Blue Licks, the last battle of the Revolutionary War in 1782, which was fought after the war had officially ended.

Like his brothers John and Levi, Robert Todd studied law under his learned uncle, Parson John Todd, who in 1749 was a member of the second class admitted to a degree at Princeton. This Robert Todd was also a Virginia burgess before the separation of the two states, and was a member of the Danville constitutional convention of 1785, which drafted Kentucky's constitution. For many years, he was a Fayette Circuit Court judge.

While he studied law, Levi Todd was also a surveyor. He married Jane Briggs in the fort of St. Asaphs in what is now Lincoln County, Kentucky, on February 25, 1779. Levi Todd was clerk of the first court of quarter sessions held in Harrodsburg in 1777. When Fayette County was formed in 1780, he was elected its first clerk and held that office

until his death in 1807. He also fought at Blue Licks, and became a major-general in a time when military titles were won only by solid, hard fighting.

Of Levi Todd's 12 children, it is the seventh, Robert Smith Todd, who commands attention. Along with his brothers and sisters, he grew up at the graceful Ellerslie, perhaps the first brick house in Fayette County, on Richmond Road (the house was razed in 1947).

Robert Smith Todd marched off with the Lexington Light Infantry to the War of 1812. He returned due to illness, and wed the sprightly Eliza Ann Parker, daughter of the aforementioned Elizabeth Rittenhouse Porter and Robert Parker. He went back to war the day after the wedding, and returned to settle down in a comfortable house on West Short Street in Lexington, built on Mrs. Parker's lot. He founded an extensive grocery establishment, Smith and Todd, in Cheapside.

Their human rights secure, the Todds could devote more time to their success in the business and political worlds.

Aside from successful mercantile and other business ventures, Robert Todd was elected clerk of the Kentucky House of Representatives at the age of 30, in 1821, and held that position for 20 years. In 1845, he was elected to the Kentucky Senate, and was a candidate for re-election when he died in 1849. He was also president of the Lexington branch of the Bank of Kentucky from its beginning in 1836 until his death.

So, it was into an affluent household of gold-framed mirrors, gleaming silver, elegant furnishings, and servants that Mary Ann Todd was born December 13, 1818, the fourth of seven children. A later daughter was also named Ann, so it was dropped from Mary's name.

It was at the birth of George Rogers Clark Todd that Eliza Ann Parker Todd died on July 4, 1825. Both sides of the family gathered to

care for the six young Todd children, and they were running in and out of Grandmother Parker's house next door. Mary Todd, only six, and deeply hurt by her mother's death, sought and received comfort from her grandmother.

On November 1, 1826, Robert Smith Todd was married for the second time, to Elizabeth (Betsy) Humphreys, in her family's lovely home in Frankfort. Mrs. Parker deeply resented the second wife, and naturally took the side of her grandchildren when the stepmother attempted to discipline them. The second Mrs. Todd was having babies with becoming regularity, and the house on West Short Street was more and more crowded. So, in 1832, Robert Todd purchased a more spacious house on Lexington's West Main Street, and moved his family there.

It was from this house in 1839 that Mary Todd set forth for Springfield, Illinois to visit her oldest sister, Elizabeth Todd Edwards, and there met Abraham Lincoln. It is this house that has now been restored and will be dedicated on June 9, 1977.

On November 4, 1842, Mary Todd became the bride of Abraham Lincoln in the Edwards' mansion. A few days later the groom wrote to a friend, "Nothing new here, except my marrying, which to me, is a matter of profound wonder."

Four sons were born to the Lincolns in Springfield - Robert Todd, on August 1, 1843; Edward Baker, on March 10, 1846; William Wallace, on December 21, 1850; and Thomas (Tad) on April 4, 1853. Of the four, only Robert grew to manhood.

On September 24, 1868, Robert Todd Lincoln and Mary Eunice Harlan, daughter of Senator James Harlan of Iowa, were married in the home of the bride's parents. To this union were born three

children - Mary, on October 15, 1869; Abraham, on August 14, 1873; and Jessie Harlan, on November 6, 1875.

Robert Todd Lincoln died on July 25, 1926, a very wealthy man. That spring he had given his wife \$1.4 million in stocks and bonds to cut down on his taxes.

In the fall of 1889, Abraham Lincoln II, called Jack, was on vacation in France and contracted blood poisoning in his arm. His father was at that time minister to Great Britain. Abraham was later brought back to London, where he died on March 5, 1890. On September 2, 1891, Mary Lincoln married Charles Isham, a distant cousin of her father's law partner. She died in 1931 in New York. The Ishams had a son, Lincoln, who married Leahalma Correa in 1919, and is now deceased.

Jessie Harlan Lincoln married Warren W. Beckwith on November 10, 1897, and they were the parents of two surviving children, Mary Lincoln, born on August 22, 1898, and Robert Todd Lincoln, born July 19, 1904.

Mary Lincoln Beckwith, who did not marry, died in 1975, leaving an estate of around \$15 million. Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, the last surviving descendant of Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln, plans to attend the dedication of the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington on June 9, 1977, just 200 years after the first Todds came to Kentucky.

Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.

511 West Short Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

MARY TODD LINCOLN HOUSE CAN NOW CELEBRATE 175 YEARS

by
Betty Ellison

It is doubtful that the double brick house on Lexington, Kentucky's West Main Street would have reached its 175th year without the intervention of Mrs. Louie B. Nunn and the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation.

The Georgian-style house was built between 1803-1806 as an inn for William Palmateer. An 1810 Lexington census shows there were four members of the Palmateer household and one slave. Robert S. Todd purchased the house for his growing family in 1832, and lived there until his death in 1849.

Now, the home where Mary Todd Lincoln spent her girlhood years has been saved, restored, and is open to the public, but inbetween lies the story.

Early during her husband's term (1967-1971) as governor, Mrs. Nunn met with the wives of the governors of Indiana and Illinois on the Lincoln Heritage Trail. The subject of the Mary Todd Lincoln House arose, and the two ladies expressed a desire to visit the historic home.

"I came back home, and thought perhaps I should see the house before they came down, and I was shocked and appalled to find it was

being used as a plumbing warehouse, and was absolutely falling down," Mrs. Nunn remembers.

In 1969, Mrs. Nunn had organized the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation to handle the renovation of the Executive Mansion in Frankfort. Later the Foundation restored White Hall, the ancestral home of Cassius Marcellus Clay, in Madison County. Before White Hall was finished, furnishings and plans were being made to restore the Mary Todd Lincoln House.

A fund-raising drive was begun by the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs , and they came up with the appraised price of the house at that time, \$26,500. This money, along with \$100,000 from Governor Nunn's contingency fund, was presented to Mrs. Nunn at Spindletop in 1971, when more than 10,000 people gathered there to honor her for her restoration work.

The Mary Todd Lincoln House property was purchased by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1971, but lengthy legal complications prevented the actual restoration from starting until 1976.

Governor Julian Carroll provided \$465,000 to restore the house, and purchase the furnishings. Governor and Mrs. Carroll also made available items of furniture that were not being used in the Executive Mansion for the house. The 1849 inventory of the Robert S. Todd estate sale was instrumental in placing the correct furnishings back into the house.

The Mary Todd Lincoln House is leased for 99 years to the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

"Womens' clubs in Kentucky raised money to save the Mary Todd Lincoln House from certain destruction, school children saved their pennies to contribute, businessmen banded together to raise money, and two gov-

ernors, Louie B. Nunn and Julian M. Carroll, have played a great part in restoring the house, and we want every Kentuckian to be a part of returning the Lincolns to Kentucky and make this house once again as elegant and proud as the lovely woman who grew up there," Mrs. Nunn concluded.

MTL House 6-9-77



A PAINTING OF MARY TODD LINCOLN hangs above the mantle in one of the twin parlors in the Mary Todd Lincoln House, Lexington, Kentucky. Displayed on the table, at the right, is a plate from the pattern used by Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln in the White House. Robert Todd's family lived in the house from 1832-1849, during Mary Todd's girlhood years. The Lincolns visited in the house several times with their sons. Abraham Lincoln spent many hours reading in the Todd library.

MTL House 6-9-77



TWIN PARLORS IN THE MARY TODD LINCOLN HOUSE, Lexington, Kentucky, are restored to the period of 1832-1849, when the family of Robert Smith Todd resided there. A painting of Mr. Todd, the father of Mary Todd Lincoln, is shown above the mantle. The material for the draperies at left was reproduced from a swatch saved by the Todd family from the original draperies. The Brussels carpet was reproduced for this room, and the Henry Belter couches are exact copies of the furniture used by Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln in the White House.

MTL House 6-9-77



THE MASTER BEDROOM IN THE Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington, Kentucky, is furnished with a massive four-poster bed and matching furniture that was made in Winchester, Kentucky in the early 1800's. To the right is a wig dresser with a carriage clock and collar stay box on it. The Brussels carpet is a reproduction from Robert S. Todd's estate sale inventory of 1849. The sale inventory was of great assistance in enabling Mrs. Louie B. Nunn, Chairman of the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, to place similar furnishings in the house.

MTL House 6-9-77

natters: When is it
take charge of your
Thursday

te's best: The fair
to Louisville, Friday

o I love thee? Christian
aturday

TODAY

LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

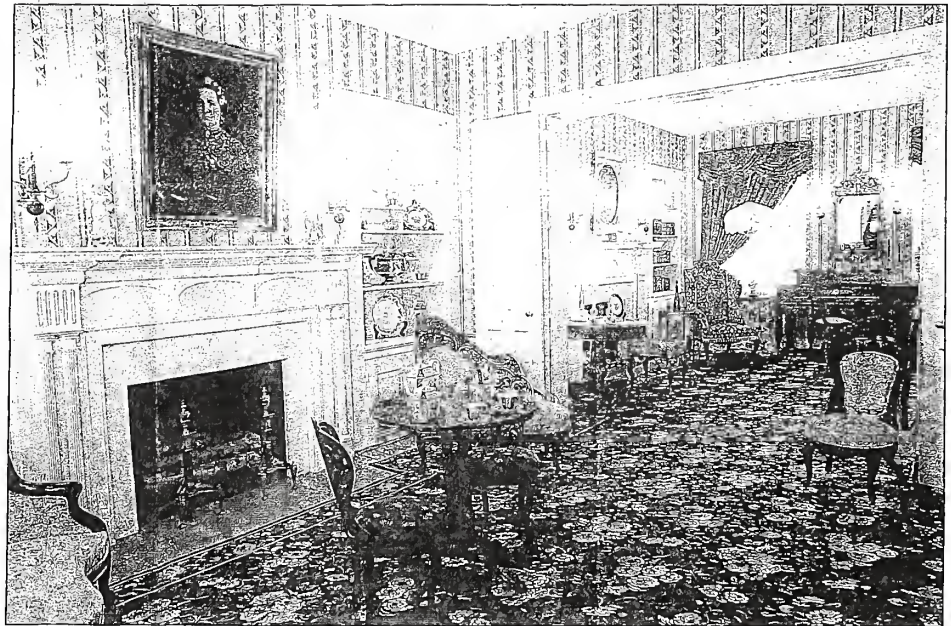


A bad feeling
Self-esteem
movement
doing a lot of
damage to the
children of America
Parents, Page J3

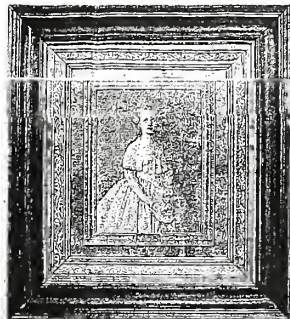
SUNDAY
August 11, 1996
Lexington, Ky.

SECTION
Anniversaries J6
Ann Landers J3
Engagements J5
Gail Sheehy J3
Weddings J4

3/11/1996



This is the double parlor at the Mary Todd Lincoln House, where Mary's father, Robert Todd, held political meetings and entertained.

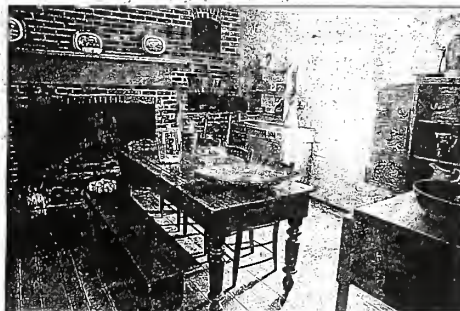


This portrait shows Mary Todd as a young woman. She was considered beautiful and popular in her younger years.

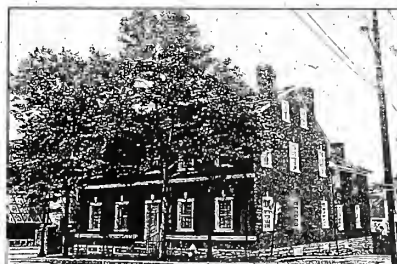
Memories of Mary Todd

Renovating Lincoln House
is continuing project

ARTICLE BY AMOS JONES PHOTOS BY MICHELLE PATTERSON HERALD-LEADER STAFF



The iron-doored warming ovens, at right on the back wall, and the fireplace are original fixtures of the warming kitchen.



The Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation restored the house at 578 West Main Street. It opened for tours in 1977.

his old house almost died. That is, until the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation Inc. bought and restored the late-Georgian building that was home to Mary Todd Lincoln for seven years.

Lou Holden, curator of the Mary Todd Lincoln House, said it took about 18 months to restore the interior to resemble the house Mary Todd knew.

The foundation opened the house for tours in 1977.

If you go

Tours at the house operate continuously Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is \$5.

Restoration entailed removing two walls of plaster that veiled the original kitchen fireplace and reconditioning the original floors.

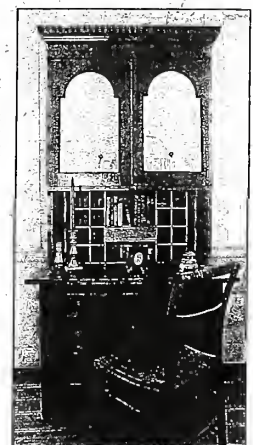
"It's absolutely amazing to think that these floors are original to this house ... if they could talk, they could tell us a lot more than what is known," said Kathy Tabb, secretary of the foundation, which maintains and operates the 193-year-old house.

Central air was added to make the house suitable for public viewing. "The fact that it was put in while the restoration was done made it (installation) easier," Holden said.

The foundation held its 28th annual meeting Wednesday with a luncheon at Spindletop Hall.

The program highlight was a dramatic historical presentation by Joan Howard, a Mary Todd Lincoln impersonator from Frankfort.

Her husband, Cliff Howard, made a brief appearance as Abraham Lincoln.



This secretary, owned by Mary Todd's father, Robert, is on display in her bedroom.

SEE TODD, J2



Mary Todd Lincoln House
578 West Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky

America's First S

America's first shrine to a First Lady. The Mary Todd Lincoln House is a tribute to the courage and fortitude of a gracious, intelligent, lovely woman who, through circumstances not of her own making, suffered the death of three of her four sons; was ostracized by Washington, D.C., society; saw her hometown vote against her husband for President, and was at his side when Abraham Lincoln was felled by an assassin's bullet. While she lived until 1882, Mary Todd Lincoln's life also ended on that tragic April night in 1865.

A Georgian-styled brick house started in 1803 as an inn, the Mary Todd Lincoln House takes you back into an era of social elegance, turbulent politics, elaborate entertaining, as well as the violence of the Civil War with Mary Todd Lincoln at her husband's side. While Abraham Lincoln struggled to hold the Union together, Mary Todd Lincoln's brothers fought and died to establish the Confederacy.

When the Todd family moved into the double-brick house in 1832, there was a formal garden with a stream that ran in back of the house, a conservatory, stone kitchen, coach house, stables, servants' quarters, and the estate contained 32 acres.



Parlor

ine to a First Lady

It was in these surroundings that Mary Todd spent her girlhood, completed 13 years of formal education, conversed with state and national leaders of the day whom her father entertained, knew the evils of slavery, and, in 1839, left to visit her sister in Springfield, Illinois, there to meet Abraham Lincoln.



Dining Room

The Todd family came to America in 1732, and played a prominent part in the development of both the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They were educators, jurists, military leaders, legislators, ministers, businessmen, and landholders. With this background, it is to be expected that Mary Todd would be accustomed to the best that was to be had. Robert S. Todd, her father, was a banker, legislator, landholder, import merchant, and he began her collection of Meissen porcelain, several pieces of which are on display in the house.

Her father died in the cholera epidemic of 1849, and, through an error in his will, all of his holdings were sold at public sales. An inventory of the furnishings of the house was available when restoration of the Mary Todd Lincoln House was begun in 1976, and this enabled the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation to place period antiques, that are the

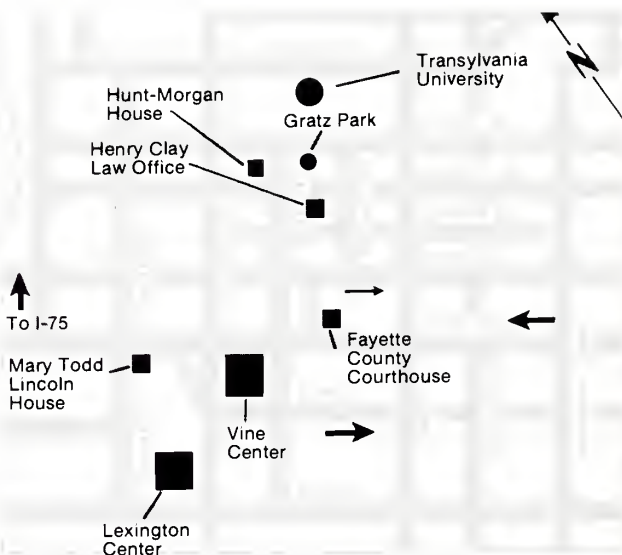


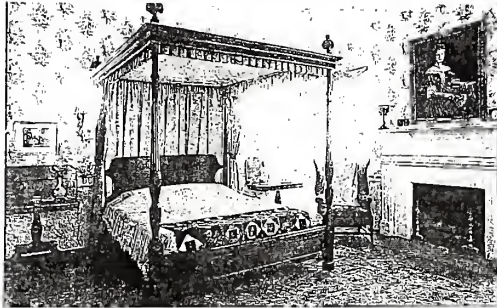
Kitchen

same or of similar style, where they stood in Mary Todd's day.

The Foundation opened the Mary Todd Lincoln House in 1977, and continues to operate it without the assistance of any state or federal monies.

The Mary Todd Lincoln House is open daily Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and special appointments can be made by calling (606) 233-9999. Last tour begins at 3:15 p.m. The season is from the first of April through the 15th of December, but the exception will be in 1985, when the house will open one week early for the NCAA Final Four Basketball Tournament. The Mary Todd Lincoln House is closed on holidays.





Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln stayed with their children in this guest room when they were visiting Lexington from Springfield, Ill., in 1847.

TODD: House contains some family artifacts

FROM PAGE J1

"I think the Lincolns were well-received," Holden said. Mary "discussed a lot of neat things about the house and the Lincolns."

More than 110 people attended the event. Portions of the proceeds will go to the Mary Todd Lincoln House's operation and maintenance.

"Restoration is an ongoing project," Tabb said.

The Bluegrass Herb Guild is planting an herb garden in the house's rear courtyard, and Tabb said the foundation hopes to open a gift shop some day.

The house has served as a tavern/inn, a grocery store, a dry cleaners and a plumbing supply warehouse.

But it was the Robert Todd family residence between 1832 and 1849.

Mary Todd, who would marry Abraham Lincoln in 1842, moved into the house with her father and siblings after he converted the

tavern/inn to a house for his family, which eventually included 16 children. Mary lived there from 1832 to 1839, from the ages of 13 to 21.

Abraham Lincoln visited the house with his wife in 1847, 1849 and 1850.

The foundation secured private donations to buy the 14-room house in 1969 and later restored it to its condition during the Mary Todd years.

The house has some chair railing but no crown molding at the top of its 10-foot, 4-inch-high walls.

"The house is set to pre-date 1849," Tabb explained. "It represents Federal Empire style, with less scrolly" furnishings and moldings than the later Victorian style.

Numerous Todd family artifacts dot the interior.

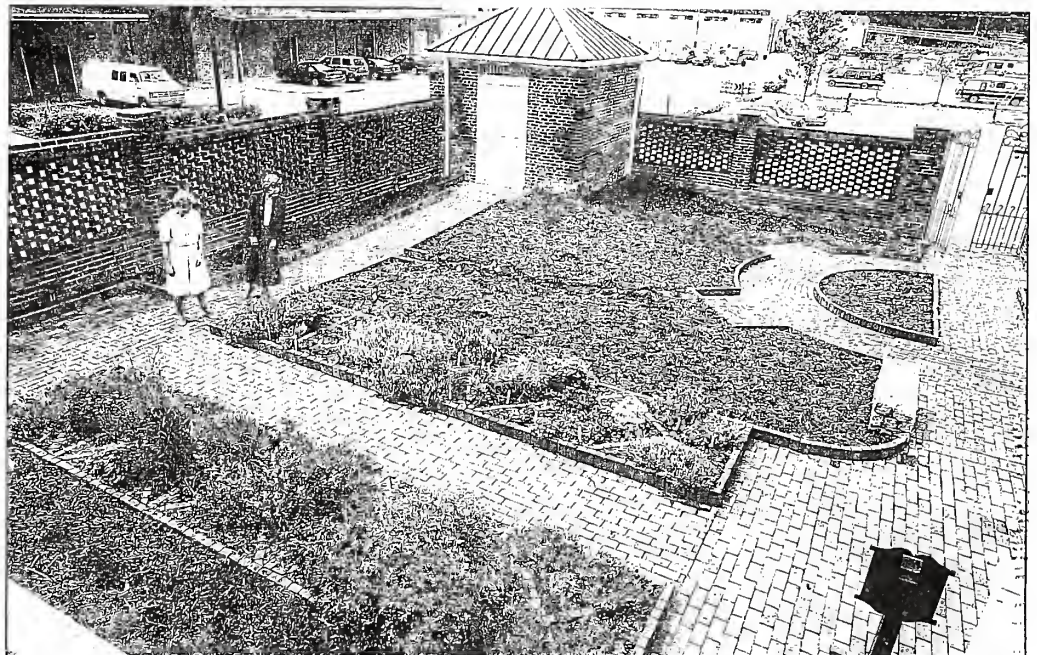
One piece is a Lazy Susan bookcase, an idea borrowed

from the French by Thomas Jefferson. Tabb said a child once asked whether it was a videocassette holder.

Actually, the device held some of the 450 books and periodicals Robert Todd had in the house when he died.

It is said that Lincoln enjoyed reading from Robert Todd's collection.

Another original item is a



MICHELLE PATTERSON/HERALD-LEADER

Margaret Mulloy, left, and Kathy Tabb, tour guides at the house, looked at the herb garden being planted in the rear courtyard.

round table that was sold at auction in 1849. It came back to the house by way of a great-granddaughter of Robert Todd.

"Local folklore says Abraham Lincoln played cards on this table in 1847," Holden said.

Other authentic pieces include Meissen and Old Paris china, some of Mary's personal china from 1864, a coffeepot from Tiffany & Co., solid Kentucky cherry banisters and staircases, a tobacco leaf mantel, an original desk with mirrors, a purse of Mary Todd Lincoln's, a secretary. Meissen candleholders and comports, some vanity accessories and nine pieces of coined silver from Mary's grandmother, who lived on Short Street. And there's a cup that belonged to Tad Lincoln, Mary and Abraham's youngest son. A soldier gave Tad the cup in memory of his brother Willie, who died of typhoid fever at age 11.

An original playbill dated April 14, 1865, from Ford's Theatre is on display in the center hall. Abraham Lincoln was shot at

the theater that night and died the next day.

Some items are not Todd family pieces but are from the time period.

Robert Todd died of cholera in 1849, during the Lexington cholera epidemic, and his disputed will ordered the auction of the family house. The inventory list from this auction has been useful in acquiring authentic furnishings from the period.

A piece of the family parlor's burgundy silk damask drapes came to the foundation during restoration.

The piece was sent to the interior designer Scalmandré of New York for analysis. Researchers determined the details of the

drapes. The fabric was reproduced for the house's family parlor.

In the formal dining room, there's a replica of the White House china Mary Todd Lincoln chose as first lady. And the rear Federal style porch has been reconstructed to reflect the style the Todds enjoyed.

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Express

From Mary Lincoln

Kentucky

Preservationists scored a victory at Mary Todd Lincoln House

The elegant brick home in Lexington barely escaped the wrecking ball in 1968.

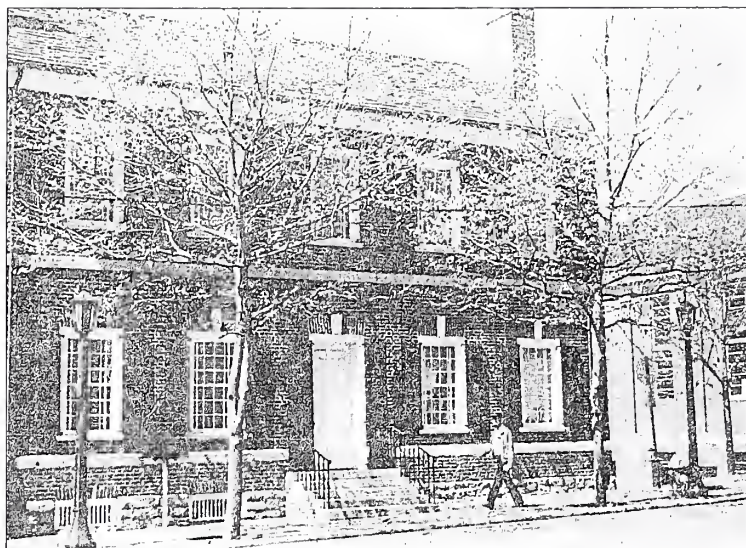
By PAMELA SELBERT
Special to the Post-Dispatch

Kathy Tabb, director of the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington, Ky., gestures to a large, black-and-white photograph hanging in the foyer of the elegant Georgian home. It shows the foyer as it looked just over 30 years ago. In the picture, the once-fashionable wallpaper hangs in shreds, the ceiling is sagging, and trash is piled up along the walls, giving the room the look of a derelict tenement.

The picture was taken in 1968, when the home that had belonged to the wife of Abraham Lincoln was about to be torn down for a parking lot, said Tabb, rolling her eyes at the thought. Lincoln had visited there with Mary on several occasions, had touched that very banister (leading to the second story), and they wanted to tear the house down. Imagine that.

Fortunately, the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation was formed that same year to protect and promote the history of the Bluegrass State, and they prevailed, Tabb said. The two-story Todd house on Main Street, once at the edge of Lexington but today near the heart of downtown, became the first site in America honoring a first lady to be restored; it opened to the public in 1977.

The lovely brick home, which edges the sidewalk in front and has a formal garden surrounded by a high brick wall in back, was built by William Palmateer between 1803 and 1806 as an inn, Tabb said. It remained an inn until the late 1820s, but by then Palmateer had fallen on



The Mary Todd Lincoln House originally was situated in a wooded area. Since then it has been surrounded by the city of Lexington.

hard times. In 1831 he sold the 14-room inn to Robert Todd, Mary's father. At the time it included quarters for servants, a springhouse, wash house, smoke house and stables with a carriage house.

In 1812, Todd married Eliza Parker, who gave birth to seven children, including Mary, the fourth child, who was born on Dec. 13, 1818. Eliza died in 1825. A year later, Robert Todd married Betsy Humphreys of Frankfort and had nine more children with her; a son from each marriage died in infancy. But as 14 of the Todd children survived past infancy, the nursery would always have been full, Tabb said.

Robert Todd died in 1849, leaving his second wife with many young children to care for. But a son from his first marriage, not wanting his stepmother to inherit the entire estate, contested the will, with

the result that the family home and all of its contents were sold at public auction, Tabb said. An inventory made at the time lists the furnishings: a cherry wood and mahogany tilt-top card table that sold in the 1849 auction for \$2.50, and a 7-foot-tall cherry wood secretary that went for \$20, among many others.

"The inventory was invaluable when it came time for us to choose antiques to furnish the restored house," Tabb said. "We were also able to recover several of the pieces, such as the card table that was donated to us by the great-granddaughter of the man who had bought it. The secretary was also recovered."

During the 119 years between the house's sale and its purchase by the preservation foundation, it went through numerous incarnations. It was a house of ill repute, a grocery

store, a dry cleaners, an apartment house and finally a plumbing supply house that was closed shortly before the home was to be torn down, Tabb said.

As a house of ill repute, it had a connection to "Gone With the Wind," she said.

"A madam named Belle Breezing had gotten her training here and became the pattern for Belle Watling in Margaret Mitchell's book after Mitchell's husband visited Lexington and heard about her. Like Watling in the Civil War novel, Belle Breezing had been shunned by polite society, but through roundabout means, as her money was tainted and unwelcome, contributed many dollars for charity and the Southern cause," Tabb said.

When the Lexington house belonged to the prominent Todds, it was the frequent site of political meetings and lavish

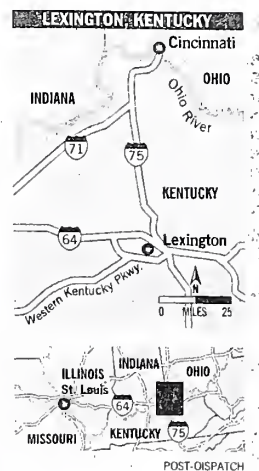
entertainment. Todd had received a law degree at nearby Transylvania University and was a leading member of the Whig party and active in the politics of the day. Henry Clay was a good friend who often came to the Todd home to discuss his (three) presidential campaigns. Young Mary Todd admired Clay and said she hoped to visit him someday in the White House; she did often visit him at his Lexington home, Ashland.

Mary, who had received 12 years of formal education, more than most men of the time, was invited by her father to sit in on the political meetings that took place in their home. Her love of learning and politics was the basis for the start of a friendship between her and young Abraham Lincoln, a member of the Whig party in Springfield, Ill. (Mary had been sent there to stay with a relative; two of her sisters had found appropriate husbands in Springfield, Tabb said.)

Mary was especially impressed by Lincoln's speeches. The two would have long conversations about Henry Clay, books and poetry they had read. To the chagrin of her family, their friendship grew stronger, and the two were married in 1842, though Mary's family refused to attend the wedding, believing the rough-hewn if brilliant Lincoln was too far beneath her, Tabb said. Even after his assassination, members of her family continued to insist he hadn't been good enough.

Four years after Lincoln entered the White House, Mary saw her husband shot and killed; three of her sons, Eddie, Willie and Tad had died young; and in her later years her only surviving son, Robert, put her on trial for insanity.

"Mary was highly opinionated and did not hesitate to speak her mind," Tabb said. "She was a controversial person, and she was surely subjected to more



if you go

Getting there: The Mary Todd Lincoln Home is at 578 West Main Street, near the intersection of highways 25 and 60 in the heart of Lexington.

Hours: The home is open March 15 through Nov. 15, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed holidays.

Admission: \$7 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Special rates for groups of 15 or more are available.

More information: Write P.O. Box 132, 578 West Main Street, Lexington, Ky. 40588, or call 1-606-233-9999.

tragedy than most."

Tabb added, "Our goal here at her girlhood home is to help visitors discover the fascinating story behind this remarkable lady."

TODD HOME IS NEGLECTED.

Only a Small Tablet Marks Site of Mrs. Lincoln's House.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Feb. 8 (AP).—With only a small "thumbnail" marker to record its history, the home of Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln, stands neglected on a side street here.

It now houses a vacant grocery store on the ground floor and a public boarding house upstairs.

The home of Mrs. Lincoln's father, Robert S. Todd, was not the scene of the courtship between Lincoln and his wife, as Lincoln met Mary Todd when she was visiting her sister in Springfield, Ill. However, the couple did spend much time in visits here.

Recently the Indiana Lincoln Association sent for bricks from the house to be used in a memorial to Nancy Hanks and since then a fifty-pound stone from the foundation had been sent to the National Girl Scouts' "little house" in Washington.

The stone was installed on the occasion of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to the Scout house.

The bronze marker was placed on the door of the home by the Pyramid Club of Lexington.

